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MONEY MATTERS

Free supplement to help you beat the crunch



FERGUS SET TO GO BACK TO NATURE

FORAGING expert Fergus Drennan has vowed to live entirely off nature for one year.

BBC3's Roadkill Chef said he will be eating "anything not deliberately grown".

The 'Wildman of Food', who lives just outside Faversham, used to sell his discoveries to top London restaurants and appeared on TV shows demonstrating how to make a feast of dead badgers or squirrels.

But now he is almost entirely vegetarian and has said he will live off the land for 12 months – even in winter.

■ BY NICK AMES

"I'm eating anything not deliberately grown," he said.

"It's going to be psychological and in some ways a bit lonely because you've no one sharing the experience."

"It's going back to basics. It's not gastronomic, it's spiritual. You learn about your place in the world. If you're extreme you learn more."

Fergus is spending his days searching wasteland, woods, hedgerows and beaches to ensure he has enough to live on.

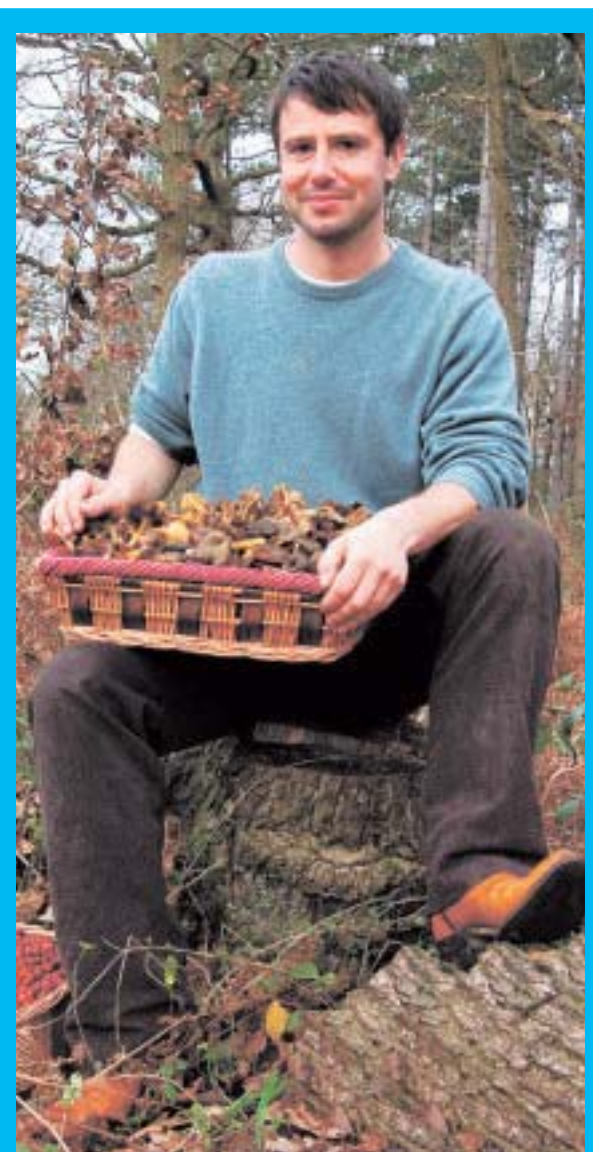
He has attempted something similar

in the past, but never to this length of time.

During one such experience he wrote: "Just grab a coffee and embrace the caffeine culture of speed. No such luxury. But is it really such a luxury? Isn't it just so much more fun and rewarding to drink wild coffee made with roasted acorns and wild water, to remember the warm autumn days gathering acorns in the sun, the jays fluttering in the branches above and squirrels twitching their tails in anticipation of their next nut for the winter store? I certainly think so!"

"Sourcing and eating wild food really

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



Fergus Drennan, who lives just outside Faversham, is known to millions as BBC3's Roadkill Chef and plans to live off the land for 12 months

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Festival shows there's nothing like a good film

BY GARETH DORRIAN

FILM-LOVERS can learn how to make their mark on the movie world at the second Swale Film Festival.

Directors, producers, actors and expert editors will be teaching people about the ins and outs of film-making.

The festival includes six feature films, as well as dozens of short amateur flicks created by Kent people – and a clutch of awards for hopefuls.

Festival director and seasoned silver screen veteran Ken Rowles, 64, has been in the business for more than 40 years.

He thinks there's nothing like a movie to bring people together.

The director of several features, including horror *Venom* (1970) and cult sex comedy *The Ups and Downs of a Handy-man* (1975) said: "Technology has moved on so much these days that it's quite possible to make a film and show it on internet sites such as YouTube.

"A sense of the community feel of going to the cinema is lost, in many ways. The festival is a chance to get people together to enjoy great films and animation shorts, while learning essential information about how features are made.

"There is so much film-making talent in Kent, in all areas of the industry. I absolutely love the festival and am sure it will be as much of a success as last year."

The largely free four-day celebration begins tomorrow with an hour-long screening of Kent-made shot films at 5pm in Faversham's Avenue Theatre. It is followed by a talk and workshop about how to make your own film.

At 8.15pm there's a screening of a 15-minute short, *Stolen Youth*, before the showing of documentary *Memoirs of a Cigarette*.



TALKING POINT: Phil Campbell stars in *The Hide* featuring at the Swale Film Festival

A few miles away at Bluetown Heritage Centre cinema, Sheppey, at 6.15pm there's a chance to see a series of shorts and later, Feature-length thriller *The Hide* – about a birdwatcher on the isle who's befriended by a mysterious stranger.

"We want to introduce the people of Swale to a selection of old and new films – and some have been made in the county," Ken said.

"Young people can meet film-makers and gain knowledge of the industry. There will also be a prize for the best entry in our Swale Film Award 2009. It's going to be a thrilling four days.

Venues for screenings and workshops are: Avenue Theatre, Faversham; Screen On, Sheppey; and Faversham Community Cafe in Preston Street.

Visit www.swalefilmfestival.org.uk for more information about the event.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Sharp-eyed builder's 100-year-old discovery

A WINDOW hidden for a 100 years has come to light following building work on the Fleur de Lis Centre in Faversham.

The window cannot be viewed from the ground and was in an isolated part of the building, but it was spotted by a builder sealing a skylight.

After pictures were taken of the rotting frame, members of the Faversham Society worked out that it was actually part of a room housing a collection of old books.

The society want to raise funds to replace the frame, but first need to find a temperature-controlled room to house the valuable literary collection.

Will you be a golden winner of 2012 letter?

A GOLDEN envelope in the post could earn Swale residents £200.

The envelopes have been posted to 200 random addresses and each one contains a piece of the borough's Olympic flag. The flag was cut up as part of an arts project to help celebrate the arrival of the event in 2012.

Each piece has a unique number on it and is accompanied by a letter telling the recipient how to enter a cash prize draw. Those with pieces must return them to the Sittingbourne Spectacular on July 11.

For more information visit www.tillys-art.co.uk.

Raising your concerns with the online police

RESIDENTS of Faversham and surrounding villages have a new way of telling their local neighbourhood policing team what matters most to them.

For more than a year the town's police have played an active role in the Faversham Partners and Communities Together meetings where local priorities have been identified, but now a new way of getting the information across has been introduced.

By using the internet issues of concern can be registered online at the www.faversham.org website by following the links to the feedback form in the Policing Matters section.

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Patty's signature quilt gets famous backing

A LUXURIOUS quilt covered in the names of some of Britain's biggest stars is set to raise thousands for a good cause.

■ BY GARETH DORRIAN

The hand-made signature quilt – created by Faversham resident Patty Schroll – includes the autographs of celebrities including Helen Mirren, Ricky Gervais, Daniel Radcliffe and Gordon Ramsay.

Retired primary school teacher Patty, 58, spent 18 months creating the queen-size cover, made from 224 blocks of fabric.

With help from friends at the MS Society, she asked hundreds of famous people for their signatures before scanning and printing them onto cotton and stitching together the results.

Principal chief

She said: "It's something I'm really proud of and it took an awful lot of time and effort to make.

"Some famous people turned us down. The Queen wouldn't give us her signature, because she only does that for family members we were told.

"I call it the Quilt of Hope and am most proud of one name in particular, that of Chad Smith who is principal chief of the Cherokee native-American Indians. I'm Cherokee myself.

"I called it that because I hope it

raises money to help find a cure for Multiple Sclerosis or any of the associated conditions."

The mother-of-three said the quilt will be raffled at the end of September after going on display in Kent and London.

The piece will go on display for a week at the Canterbury branch of Fenwicks, starting on July 8. It will then be shifted to St Mary-at-Hill Church in Eastcheap, London.

Signature quilts are an American tradition, made for those going off to fight for their country abroad or who are flying the nest for a new life at school – Patty said.

She hopes to raise £20,000 by selling raffle tickets. Visit justgiving.com/quilt_of_hope for more details.

MS Society spokeswoman Diana Gornall said: "Patty has done a really fantastic job creating this beautiful quilt.

"Her support of the MS Society is really appreciated.

"It is only with the support of dedicated people like Patty that the MS Society can provide essential services to people affected by multiple sclerosis."



SITTING PRETTY: Patty with the hand-made quilt which took her 18 months to complete

Family return to their old business

GARY Mogridge and his dad were stunned when the Burgate Bakery business they founded went bust just three years after they sold it.

Father Tony had started the firm 40 years ago, but sold it when he retired three years ago. But the new owner disappeared, leaving unpaid bills and with environmental health officers from two councils on his trail.

Luckily the Mogridges still owned a shop in Whitstable Road, Faversham, and the bakery in Bridge.

Now Gary, 40, is renovating the Whitstable Road shop to turn it into a coffee and sandwich shop and plan to reopen in two months and attempt to restore the shop's reputation.

He said: "We are going to have an area where people can sit and have a cup of coffee and a chat. We will be making things on the premises.

"I worked in the bakery as a boy before going into it full time when I was 16 and I worked there until we sold the business."

Meanwhile Tony is concentrating on clearing up the bakery building in Bridge.

Drivers wanted

MORE than 200 lorry drivers are being recruited by supermarket giant Morrisons in preparation for the opening of the new distribution centre in Sittingbourne.

The new regional base will be open in the autumn and is aiming to supply up to 65 stores.

The supermarket has been advertising for 1,000 jobs at the depot and 220 of these will be drivers.

The arrival of the new centre is one of the main factors in regenerating Sittingbourne's economy with the amount of new staff being recruited a boost for the town at a time of economic downturn.

Makes living from courses on foraging

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

opens your eyes, your mind and heart, in fact, your whole being, to a deep appreciation of and connection to the natural world around you!

"The more you eat the better the feeling. Now you don't get that with cakes and chocolate which, admittedly, are great at first, but later..."

Fergus makes his living from running courses in foraging

He explained his philosophy to a national newspaper saying: "I've always felt slightly on the outside of things.

"When I read the papers I cry at the way the world is and I think foraging is a balm against that. It's also about wanting to live fully. I belong in nature and when I'm out there I feel I'm putting down roots.

"It's partly physical, my hands covered in bloody scratches, the sun on my back in summer and the wind and rain in winter. I just love the impact of nature on my body.

"The only time in my life I've been really unhappy is when I've been seduced by cash.

"I used to supply wild food to London restaurants, but there was a big problem with sustainability and I couldn't live with that."

• Email yoursval@kosmedia.co.uk

Local trader ready to reopen doors at Woolworths store

THE former Woolworths store could be open again for business within two months after its purchase by a local businessman.

Gurnake Cheema, who owns KGN News and Round a Pound in Preston Street, is the new leaseholder of the store which closed when the national chain went bust in January. He has said he will stock similar products to Woolworths after outbidding a national retailer for the prime site.

Commerce

However, many locals say they are adopting a wait-and-see policy towards the new business venture and are reserving judgement until it is up and running.

The store will operate under the name BK Homeware.

The news comes just a week after it was announced that Morrisons supermarket chain will be opening a shop to replace the Co-op in West Street and a new DIY store will be opened just outside the town.

Laurence Young of the Faversham

Enterprise Partnership said the news that the Woolworths building will soon be open for business again was very good for the town.

He said: "I welcome the fact that a lease has been signed and the store could be open again very shortly, following what would seem to be a quick turn around.

"It is good that a local retailer has taken this bold step and I really do wish him well. As a trader if he can fill the gap left by Woolworths then that will be a very good thing indeed for Faversham."

The prime site in the centre of the town was left vacant after the national chain closed up blaming the credit crunch for lack of revenue.

Some residents felt it had dealt a major blow to commerce in Faversham as many shoppers would not bother coming into the centre and revenues for other traders would drop.

However, this has proved not to be the case with the town doing better than many other similar places throughout the economic downturn.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Police join with DVLA to remove untaxed cars

THE police have been clearing the district's streets of cars with no road tax.

Almost 50 cars and vans have been removed from the city and the surrounding area in the last two weeks.

The police worked with the city council and DVLA to trace and pick up the vehicles.

Police have also been doing roadside checks in the Canterbury, Herne Bay and Whitstable areas to promote road safety and stop fly-tipping.

Parking penalty waived after newspaper steps in

A PARKING enforcement firm has waived a fine following a story by Yourcanterbury.

Mrs Phyllida Edwards approached Yourcanterbury after Parking Eye, who police the Aldi car park in Canterbury, fined her £70 for a parking offence she insists she did not commit.

Mrs Edwards said: "Without the newspaper interceding for me I don't know what would have come of it. I may have ended up being fined hundreds of pounds."

£500,000 award makes cycle paths go further

KENT'S new extended cycle route network is making excellent progress, according to the council.

New cycle paths have been built through Reculver Country Park and around Bishopstone Glen in Beltinge, as part of the Oyster Bay Trail.

This route will link Reculver and Whitstable, and connect with the Viking Coastal Trail around Thanet and the Crab and Winkle Way to Canterbury.

The paths have been built following a £500,000 award from Sustrans.

Recycle your old books and pick up a new read

AN environmental charity is hosting two books swaps in Whitstable.

The first swap is at the Duke of Cumberland at 8pm on Monday, July 13. The second is for children's books and runs from 10-11am at the Whistlestop Restaurant on Tuesday, July 21.

Transition Town Whitstable organised the free events.

Martin's battle an inspiration to pupils

■ BY JENNY ARMSTRONG

AT 17, Martin Hopley was told by doctors he only had 10 months to live following a series of unsuccessful operations to treat a large brain tumour.

But following a miraculous, scientifically-unexplained remission Martin, now aged 30, has devoted his life to inspiring others to make the most of the time they've got.

Last week he visited Barton Court Grammar School to tell his story and extol the virtues of thinking positively.

The talk had a profound effect on students.

Christine, 17, a Barton Court student, said: "I thought the talk was inspirational. I want to get out there now and do something with my life."

Martin's story started when he was 14, and he began to get severe headaches and nausea.

One day he passed out and woke up in the John Radcliffe Infirmary in Oxford. He was told he had a tumour which was preventing fluid from leaving his brain.

The schoolboy had a valve inserted in his head which cleared the fluid, but this was repeatedly rejected, so he had to have multiple operations to replace it.

He sat one of his GCSE exams just 48 hours after one such procedure, with stitches still in his head.

Then at 16 he was told he had to have surgery to remove the tumour, facing a one-in-three chance of becoming severely disabled, or not waking up at all.

The surgery and subsequent radiotherapy left him with severe double vision, impaired hearing in his left ear and short-term memory loss. He also had to re-learn to walk.

Then he was told the operation had not worked, and he only had 10 months to live.

Martin said: "At 17 my family, my friends, everything I wanted to be, was stolen from me. I became the loneliest person in the world and quite frankly it broke me."

But when everything seemed as bad as it could be, he did not give up.

He said: "If conventional medicine couldn't help me I would try unconventional medicine."

"I thought, what's the worst that could happen? I would die? Oh well, I was going to die anyway." He called a herbalist who told him to stop eating rubbish, become a vegan, and start



THINK POSITIVE: Pupils at Barton Court school listen as Martin Hopley encourages them to live life to the full

being happy. Despite the odds, the tumour shrank. One day it could grow again and kill him, but for now he is doing well.

The talk was part of a day organised by the school to help students make choices about their lives after school. Mr Hopley spoke to two sixth-form groups, but had also presented the same talk to a group of 14 to 15-year olds earlier in the year.

Remarkably, Mr Hopley does the talks to give something back.

He said: "I'm living on benefits. I feel it is better doing something useful for society than sitting on my backside living off the state. And I think the kids get something from it too."

"Nothing has changed. I'm still going to die. But by getting over the fact that I'm not immortal, I have been able to get on with my life and do something amazing with it."

"Barton Court are rather unique and think in very different ways to many schools. It's not easy and some people think it's a risk to invite someone to talk to their pupils about death. Barton Court's vision is a credit to their high standards."

Mr Hopley now enjoys travelling around Japan, and has learned Japanese. He is also a published author, currently writing a novel.



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"Perfect platform for finding new suppliers and networking" - Croner
"Excellent show got 56 leads with several proposals already out." - GEP Safety Consultants
"Excellent well run Show" - GSE Holdings

For more information and to book your space at this years event
call Liz Hare on 01303 817172 or email liz.hare@constructionexpo.co.uk



THEY'RE OFF: Graeme Tyndall and Mike Wilson get a send-off from pupils at the King's School, Canterbury

Teachers spend summer driving Ka to Mongolia

AN EPIC journey to Outer Mongolia launches next week as two Canterbury school teachers set off to cover 10,000 miles in a Ford Ka.

Graeme Tyndall, 27, and Mike Wilson, 24, will drive across 16 countries, three mountain ranges and two deserts in the black 1.2 litre runaround, decorated with pink polka dots, as part of the increasingly popular Mongol Rally.

The teachers are confident they will complete the charity challenge, in aid of Children and Young People's Protection and Development.

Mr Wilson said: "We do foresee problems: our friendship; our inability to speak or read Russian; our lack of mechanical knowledge; our complete lack of geographical sense; getting back in time for school. Other than that, it should be plane sailing."

The pair, who teach at the King's School, Canterbury, will set off from Goodwood, near Chichester, on Saturday, July 18.

Their route passes through Prague, Budapest and Tehran before ending up in Ulaanbaatar in Mongolia.

Mr Wilson said: "We decided to do it through a mixture of madness and boredom, I think."

"We've always wanted to see Iran from the inside of a Ford Ka, tracing the silk road in the footsteps of Genghis Ka..."

The charity they are raising money for is Children and Young People's Protection and Development, which protects the rights of vulnerable children.

The charity also supports children's education, training and development. It is running a project to improve the lives of children working in Ulaanbaatar's markets, who are often exposed to sexual exploitation and human trafficking.

The pair hope to complete the expedition in five weeks. After this they will give their car away to the charity and take the trans-Siberian railway back to Moscow.

They want to raise £3,000 for their cause and have so far raised nearly £900.

Mike Wilson, who achieved a starred first in theology from Cambridge before teaching, said: "The children's charity caught our eye, both because it works with young people, as we do, and because the results of the money raised will be seen clearly in the building of a new strategic centre in Ulaanbaatar."

"We are also hoping to initiate some lasting links between King's and the charity, with the possibility of taking some students to Mongolia."

To sponsor the teachers, visit www.mon-golkings.com

Police plea after bus garage raid

POLICE have released CCTV footage of a man they want to talk to in connection with a burglary in Herne Bay.

The bus garage in the High Street was broken in to on Sunday, February 8. Clothing, staff bags and a machine for issuing tickets were stolen.

Anyone with information should call PC Carl McGee on 01227 868283.



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Hegehog family expands

THERE has been some good news for an endangered British animal – a hedgehog mother has given birth to four hoglets at Wildwood Discovery Park.

When they were born, the baby hogs, were spineless and hairless. Now, after five weeks, they are smaller versions of their parents.

Hedgehogs are on a list of 18 British mammals at threat in the countryside. Nine are at Wildwood – the hedgehog, water vole, wildcat, otter, pine marten, harvest mouse, dormouse, polecat and red squirrel.

Members of the public can visit the park, which is just off the A291 between Herne Bay and Canterbury.



Boy, 17 on assault charge

A TEENAGER has been charged with assaulting three men after a fight in Whitstable last Friday.

The 17-year-old from Birchington was charged after police were called to the fracas in Tower Parade at 10.20pm on June 26.

The men he is charged with assaulting were all 19 and are from Whitstable, Hernhill and Canterbury.

Two 20-year-old men from Whitstable were also arrested in connection with the affray, which was near the Harbour Garage, and have been released on bail.

The teenager appeared in court on Monday, June 29 when the case was adjourned and he was also bailed.

Police urge any witnesses of the scuffle to contact PC Dave O'Brien on 01227 868266

Road closed after crash

A TRACTOR collided with a car last week on a narrow road near Bekesbourne – miraculously no-one was seriously injured.

The crash between the tractor and the Peugeot meant the road had to be closed, causing delays to school buses.

The smash happened at 2.40pm on Wednesday, June 1 on Bifrons Hill.

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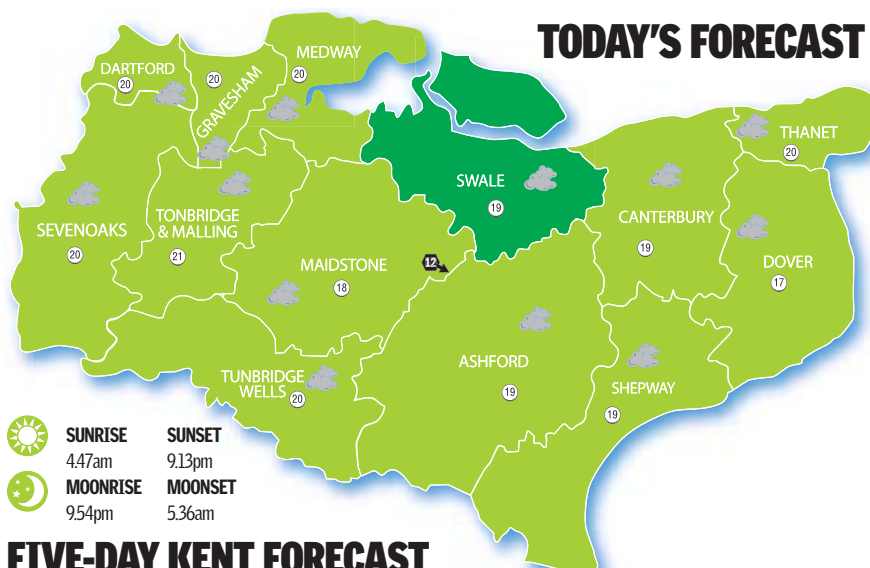
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Chatham	Saturday	4:00pm	5.7m
	Sunday	4:32pm	5.7m
Dover	Saturday	2:23pm	6.4m
	Sunday	2:54pm	6.3m
Dungeness	Saturday	2:13pm	7.3m
	Sunday	2:45pm	7.3m
Ramsgate	Saturday	2:53pm	4.8m
	Sunday	3:24pm	4.8m
Sheerness	Saturday	3:50pm	5.5m
	Sunday	4:22pm	5.4m
Whitstable	Saturday	3:46pm	5.1m
	Sunday	4:16pm	5.0m



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	22°C	Madrid	29°C
Athens	26°C	New York	24°C
Barcelona	28°C	Paris	23°C
Beijing	26°C	Rome	28°C
Bombay	29°C	Sydney	15°C
Cape Town	16°C	Tenerife	27°C
Cardiff	16°C	Tokyo	24°C

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	19°C	20°C	19°C	19°C	19°C	Gravesend	20°C	21°C	20°C	19°C	20°C
Canterbury	20°C	20°C	20°C	19°C	20°C	Maidstone	19°C	21°C	20°C	19°C	20°C
Chatham	19°C	20°C	19°C	18°C	20°C	Ramsgate	20°C	20°C	20°C	19°C	20°C
Dartford	20°C	21°C	20°C	19°C	20°C	Rochester	19°C	20°C	19°C	18°C	20°C
Dover	18°C	19°C	18°C	18°C	19°C	Sevenoaks	18°C	19°C	18°C	18°C	19°C
Faversham	19°C	20°C	19°C	18°C	20°C	Sittingbourne	19°C	20°C	19°C	18°C	20°C

Get your dog microchipped for a fraction of the price

A CAMPAIGN to get dogs microchipped so they can be easily identified if they run away is taking place across Swale

Tim Oxley, Swale council's animal control officer, is promoting responsible ownership.

The council is planning special dog chipping and health check events at Central Avenue in Sittingbourne on Wednesday, July 29 from 10am-5pm; Market Square in Faversham on Thursday, July 30 from 10am-5pm; and by the Town Clock in Sheerness town centre on Friday, July 31 from 10am-5pm.

Microchipping a dog at the vets can cost around £30, but Mr Oxley will be able to do this for a cost of £5 per dog.

Animal health experts will also be there and will be offering free health checks and advice.

Mr Oxley said: "Microchipping dogs really is a no-brainer. It allows us to quickly return a stray dog to its owner."

Thirty jobs lost at Solaglas

A GLASS factory has shattered more than 30 workers' hopes of holding onto their jobs in the recession - by announcing it will shut.

Sittingbourne-based Solaglas, in Mill Way, has been in the town for 40 years.

Sources at the company, which makes safety glass, say work at the site could be moved to other sites in the UK.

Solaglas was founded in Queenborough but moved to Sittingbourne after 10 years.

Human relations manager Andrew Burrow said a closing date hadn't been set and that several workers could be moved to the firm's Canterbury branch.

He added: "Staff have been incredibly professional, they are a brilliant team and they understood why we had to do it."

Solaglas divisional director David Parr said the company will put a job-a-job-seeker training system in place to help workers.

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yourlocalinterview

QUESTION & ANSWER

ROB FORKNALL



Q What does your role involve?

A As artistic director of the company since 1992 I have directed all the shows and organised the youth theatre which folded in 2003. I cast all productions and coordinate all production meetings.

The role involves months of planning, finding venues, meetings with the designer to figure out the style and tone of the show. Now Changeling produces one show a year with the Hazlitt Theatre – touring Shakespeare in the open air around Kent.

Q Can you tell us a little about yourself?

A After leaving West Kent College when I was 18, I set up a company called ENR Productions and we produced such shows as Godspell, Cabaret, Equus, Agamemnon and Kiss Me Kate at The Stag Theatre in Sevenoaks and Trinity Arts Centre in Tunbridge Wells. After that I joined Round About Community Arts Project at the Hazlitt Theatre. My brief was to direct community shows and organise a workshop programme.

Then I formed the Querk Theatre Company with writer Kate Chapman, which involved youth theatre and working on new plays or new adaptations of plays that went into unusual venues, such as the first outdoor Shakespeare, A Midsummer Night's Dream, at Boughton Monchelsea Place in 1992, Lysistrata and Arturo Ui at The St George's

Centre in Gillingham, and 1381 at The Archbishop's Palace in Maidstone. In 1997 Querk gained charitable status and changed its name to Changeling. Our first production was Tartuffe at Boughton Monchelsea Place.

We started working more with professional actors rather than members of the community and did three years in Edinburgh with Changing Rooms and The World is just About Enuff.

In 2001 we performed A Midsummer Night's Dream, which was our first collaboration with the Hazlitt Theatre.

Q What is The Changeling Theatre working on at the moment?

A The Merchant of Venice, which will be touring outdoor venues from July 10 until August 9. We felt that this was a particularly pertinent choice in the current financial climate, and have characterised Venice as Canary Wharf, and the eponymous Merchant as a high flyer in the city. The play has a feel of The Apprentice about it and is accessible for all members of the family. Many people forget that the play is a comedy and that there are points in the show which are hilariously funny. We have integrated the music into the show so that the actors are playing throughout. The fact that the show is open air means that the audience will be among the action and those who bring rugs will actually have a better experience than those on chairs. So please bring picnics, wine and Pimms, and enjoy the

scenery and setting as much as the beautiful music and Shakespearean language.

Q What do you enjoy about your job? Are there any difficult areas?

A I love my job – being responsible for a show as massive as this every year is a brilliant thing to do and the more difficulties the better it gets. I love working with actors, working on text, creating the show and seeing it performed every night in beautiful venues. And, of course, the après-theatre fun is genius too.

Q What professional qualifications are useful in this career?

A Talent and a love of theatre, TV and film, and a commitment to the profession. Professional qualifications are not necessary. You must also be prepared to not always be in work and then, when you are, to work harder than you have ever worked in your life!

Q Tell us something most people don't know about you.

A I have an almost nerdish knowledge of British history that I have taught myself.

Q Anything you'd like to add?

A What we and the Hazlitt do every summer is every bit, if not better, than many productions that you would see in London's West End.

Q & A

The artistic director of the Changeling Theatre company spoke to Jon Coates about his job and his passion for staging open air performances of Shakespeare plays in stunning settings across mid and north Kent

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EDITOR'S CHOICE

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Star's art shoots through museum

BY JENNA PUDELEK

STUFFED animals flying out of a Victorian contraption and a Siamese serpent are among the exhibits in a surreal show by comedian Vic Reeves.

In The Natural History of Kent and Sussex Through My Binoculars, which opened yesterday at the Tunbridge Wells Museum and Art Gallery, the purveyor of the bizarre is leaving the meaning of it all up to viewers.

Reeves, who lives in Charing, near Ashford, with his wife Nancy Sorrell and their twins, has created six new paintings for the show that he has combined with objects and artefacts from the museum's collection.

Asked whether the pictures were produced in response to what he found when rifling through the museum's wide-ranging archives, he said: "It was a bit of both, after I did the pictures I picked some other things as well."

"I'm putting up shelves under each painting and there will be objects that will link directly or indirectly with the painting."

"People can make their own links. People spend a lot of time wanting to be told what to think about something. I'm assuming people will want to know what it is all about, but my lips are keeping firmly shut."

The 50 year old is probably most famous for Shooting Stars, the BBC TV comedy quiz show

he presented along with Bob Mortimer in the 1990s and which is due to make a comeback this August.

But the keen birdwatcher and prolific artist – he is publishing a book filled with 260 of his illustrations later this year – has exhibited his paintings and drawings at several commercial galleries.

Reeves, who said his artistic life has worked alongside his comedy throughout his career, described some of the objects he chose.

"I suppose I'm fond of stuffed animals and birds, as well as the live ones," he said. "All that Victoriana, they would stuff anything they saw... I've always been interested in insects in museums since I was young. That was the first thing I looked for."

Transformation

As he spoke to KOS Media this week Reeves was busy setting up the show. He said: "They (the stuffed animals) are all flying out of a Victorian bath chair."

"They hit the ground and turn into humming birds that spread out coming together. I was working out how it would fit together nine months ago and now I'm putting it all into place."

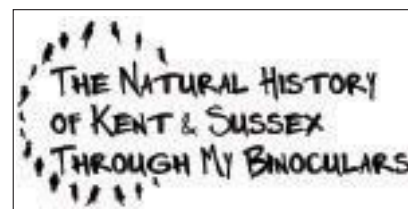
Asked what kind of reaction he wanted, he said: "Probably tearing people away from the obvious. It'll be interesting to see."

Reeves remained tight-lipped about his pictures and what they might mean.

Quizzed over the use of stormy clouds and threatening skies, he said: "I got some new acrylic sprays and I was messing about with it



BE INSPIRED: Comedian Vic Reeves wants visitors to his exhibition to make their own minds up about his work



and I and thought it made nice clouds and I've got a bit of a thing about clouds. One of the great things about art is that you can see whatever you want to see and think whatever you want about it."

One painting shows a serpent joined in the middle with two heads with two sets of human eyes and lips. The work was inspired by an object in the museum's collection.

He said: "It [the show] is quite random, there is nothing particularly that ties it, but I suppose the general theme could be ways of looking at things."

Reeves came straight to the museum after filming Shooting Stars and said it was not that big a leap in the type of material he was dealing with.

Is he hoping to attract a different and perhaps younger audience to the museum? He added: "I don't know who'll see it, museum goers, tourists..."

"There was a lady outside this morning who said, 'can I bring my kids or is it adult themed' and I said there is nothing particularly adult or dodgy."

The show will run until August 29.



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Thinking of where to take the kids during the summer holidays? Here are a few ideas all within one hours' drive of Calais

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Le Touquet: With miles of wide sandy golden beaches you have virtually every conceivable outdoor activity catered for including sand yachting on one of the longest beaches in Northern France. **Aqualud waterpark.** The biggest amusement water park in Northern France, located on the French coast "Côte d'Opale" at Le Touquet.

St. Omer Area: The Flemish town of Saint-Omer stands on a hillside on the edge of the River Aa marshes, less than 30 miles from Calais. The large square in the town holds a weekly market on Saturday mornings, selling fresh local produce from the farms on the marshes. A branch of the river runs through the lower part of the town and a boat trip is an ideal way of seeing the 13th Century Abbey, houses and remarkable open countryside. Or you can visit the fantastic underground World War 2 museum nearby at La Coupole, the site of the V2 rocket in Helfaut and the Eperlecques Bunker are two of the great relics of the Second World War in Europe, that can be visited now as History and Remembrance Centres.

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Flavour of summer is right on your doorstep

WITH the arrival of summer sunshine, I am eating more salads, and am thrilled that the British tomato season is upon us.

Although tomatoes are available throughout the year, it is only in recent weeks that local varieties have ripened and there really is no comparison between the flavourless tomatoes available during winter and the sweet, tangy and delicious British varieties.

If you're a gardener your tomato plants should be doing well and you'll soon see the first signs of flowers or fruit. If not, you need to track down some local Kentish tomatoes.

Those provided by www.foodforkent.co.uk are grown by Brian and Lorraine Watts, who run the Leonard Ironside nursery at Farthing Common, Lynging, which I visited last month.

Brian has been growing tomatoes since 1974, and it was fascinating to find out what is involved.

His nursery comprises four, one-acre glasshouses, containing about 35,000 tomato plants. Brian currently grows 10 different varieties, ranging from traditional vine and plum to cherry and beef tomatoes. The tomato seedlings are planted in November in what looks like giant grow bags filled with coir, which is shredded coconut husk – a much more environmentally-sound choice than traditional peat.

In the first part of a regular series of articles, healthy eating expert ABBY DYSON – who writes about cooking, seasonal, healthy food at www.eattherightstuff.com – discusses her recent visit to the county to experience the delights of Kentish tomatoes.



Brian explained how the environment in the glasshouses is carefully monitored to create optimum growing conditions.

The temperature is varied depending on how bright a day it is – on sunny days the plants grow fast and need extra warmth, whereas on an overcast day less heat is required as they are growing more slowly.

Just as important is keeping the glasshouses well ventilated, so that disease, which flourishes in warm damp environments, is kept at bay and condensation doesn't form which might cause blemishes on the tomatoes. Carbon dioxide, a by-product of

the heating system, is pumped into the glasshouses to encourage better growth.

One of the most interesting things about visiting the nursery was learning about the bugs and bees which Brian deploys to help him grow the tomatoes.

Each glasshouse contains a number of bee hives housing bumble bees that pollinate the tomatoes.

This is a far cry from the techniques used in yesteryear, which saw farmers use a vibrating metal rod to "tickle" each flower so that the pollen was dislodged.

The bees are introduced when the first

flowers appear – usually just after Christmas – and continue their work until the end of the growing season in the autumn.

Brian also uses predator insects. The plants are regularly inspected by white-coated scientists and any sign of pests is noted. Predator insects are then introduced which target and eliminate these pests.

It's a wonderful example of working with Mother Nature and as a result of this approach Brian's tomatoes are grown without the use of pesticides, fungicides or insecticides.

Each glasshouse contains 500 rows of tomatoes and from March, when the plants start producing fruit – it takes eight weeks from pollination to a tomato being ready to pick – each row is picked every other day, six days a week.

The tomatoes are put straight into the boxes in which they are sold so that they are handled as little as possible.

Unusually, they are not put into cold storage but go straight to the people who are buying them so that the time between picking and selling is kept short.

The result is flavoursome Kentish tomatoes which are well worth tracking down.



Abbi's double tomato and courgette pasta

(Serves 2)

Pasta for two – penne works well

1 tablespoon olive oil

1 large clove garlic, crushed

2 courgettes, cut into discs

1 tablespoon of sun-dried tomatoes, softened in boiling water and cut into thin strips

Juice of half a lemon

15-20 cherry tomatoes, halved

A handful of basil leaves, shredded

1 tablespoon of toasted pine nuts

Parmesan cheese, to serve

Put the pasta on to cook.

Fry the garlic in olive oil and when you start to smell it, add the courgette.

Turn the heat up and cook, stirring regularly, until the courgette begins to soften. Keep the heat high and add the sun-dried tomatoes and lemon juice and cook for a more few minutes.

When the courgette is sufficiently cooked add the cherry tomatoes, basil and pine nuts.

Remove from the heat, mix with the pasta and serve with parmesan shavings.

For more examples of seasonal recipes visit Abby's healthy eating food blog www.eattherightstuff.com



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Aspiring army recruits are put through paces



IN THE ARMY NOW: Sittingbourne students enjoyed an action-packed day at Folkestone's army barracks

STUDENTS at Sittingbourne Community College got a feel for the physical demands the Army requires when they recently took part in the annual Schools Challenge.

A total of 13 students, who are interested in joining the Army as a career, visited the Sir John Moore Barracks at Shornecliffe, Folkestone and alongside 29 other schools from Kent participated in the Kent Schools Challenge 2009.

The trip was part of the college's policy of trying to get its students to explore new areas of activity and broaden their outlook on life.

It was also aimed at giving them an idea of what life is like in today's modern Army.

Although the activities were physically demanding, the college students came a respectable tenth place in the competition, which included inflatable assault courses, building mini bridges and mini cranes, and paint-balling at static ranges.

Student Harry Coulson, 15, said: "The day was really great and extremely educational."

■ BY NICK AMES

I found it really interesting as I want to join the Army in the future."

College head Alan Barham added: "We always encourage our students to try new things and expand their skills."

"Such activities give our pupils a great opportunity to experience career choices before they take that path. It opens them up to new skills and new ways of thinking."

"It was enjoyed thoroughly by all and even the little rain endured did not dampen their spirits."

The barracks in Folkestone is one of the most historic in the UK and was the base for many of the regiments that fought as far back as the Napoleonic Wars in the early 19th century.

It was a jumping off point for soldiers heading for the trenches in the First World War and an important training centre in the fight against Hitler's Nazis.

The base is currently home to the 2nd Battalion The Royal Gurkha Rifles, who have just returned from a tour of Helmand Province in Afghanistan.

BREAK TIME

Ashleigh raps pupils round his finger

PUPILS at Fulston Manor School were treated to a poetry day with a difference when rapper Ashleigh Nugent inspired pupils with his lively, musical and energetic workshop.

It culminated in a competition in which youngsters wrote their own raps in groups, performing their songs to the class at the end.

The sessions for year ten students at the Sittingbourne school involved the use of rhythm and rhyme, alliteration, metaphor and other techniques.

A school spokesman said the pupils became more confident throughout the day as they realised that the music they listen to uses many of the techniques they need to learn for poetry.

He said Ashleigh's freestyling – devising lyrics on the spot – was the highlight of the day, as his quick but accurate word delivery amazed everyone.

English teacher Karen Wells organised the day, which was sponsored by Creative Partnerships.

Rapper Ashleigh was impressed with the group, saying: "The class did extremely well and wrote excellent poetry and rap."

"I thought that the boys did particularly well in their performances and the girls



POETRY LESSON: Rapper Ashleigh Nugent inspired pupils with a day of rhythm and rhyme at Fulston Manor School

wrote some beautiful lyrics".

Student Louis Mulligan said: "I thought he was really good because he mixed English with rap. He was a great freestyler and I would like him to come back next year."

"I thought it was cool. I loved being able to show what my poetry is like."

"Ash was awesome and it's going to help me a lot in the future with English. The best English lesson ever," added Kadie MacTaggart.



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yourswaleblogger

Editor of our sister paper Kent on Saturday, Chris Britcher, on how commuters may lose out on the high-speed trains



Fast track to the office means less free time to spend on you

I SPENT many years commuting on our rail network. And somewhere in my brain lurks a department which can still reel off the full stopping service between my home station and the London terminals.

The list of stations seeped into my brain subconsciously as I stood on platforms waiting for trains home. There are still places in Kent I have never been to but know they exist purely by the fact they have a station on a main line. Places like Martin Mill, Dumpton Park and Westenhangar. I have images of what they are like, a mystique I know would probably be shattered were I to ever set eyes on them. Quite frankly, my brain isn't big enough to be carrying around that sort of information.

At first I despised the daily two-hour slog to London and then repeating the slow, dirty process home again. Given it just involved me sitting on a cushioned seat, it was crippling tiring. And mind-numbingly boring.

I resented every sweaty lump who sat next to me. I could happily have stabbed to death those who sprawled themselves over two seats and refused to budge when I came down the carriage in desperate need of a spot to park myself for the duration. Over the top, maybe. But after a long day, selfish seat nabbing is without question punishable by death.

But over the years, my hate relationship with these 'lost' four hours changed.

In the mornings, I would nab my window seat, plug in my CD player (this was the pre-iPod era) and look forward to an extra hour and a half's sleep. Sure it meant I'd wake up somewhere outside Bromley, dribbling on to the shoulder of the poor sap next to me, but at least I got a little shut eye.

Then on the way home in would go the earphones and out would come a book. I used the time to read classics I'd never read before. Books I had failed miserably at school to concentrate on; I probably read more during those journeys than I have before or since.

Suddenly, the hated two hours turned into a

precious pair. This was my time. I'd turn my phone off and just enjoy good music, good literature or simply the view.

Granted, the trains were always the old rubbish slam door trains. And on the rare occasion when I would end up standing in the old post carriages, they were truly miserable hours. But if I'd got a seat and avoided anyone with children then it could have been worse.

So what? I hear you cry. Well I say this because for those commuters happy to shell out a few bob, that time has now been reduced. Because this is a new era of super-fast high-speed trains. Of 37-minute journeys from Ashford to London. And that's quite incredible.

And as good as it must be to shave such a gigantic slice of travelling time, I would wager there will at least be a few like me who may rue that precious time. Because we all know what will happen. That time saved will be spent in the office and not at home. And a bit of valuable leisure time will be gone.

So don't worry if you can't afford to upgrade. Just remember that time is on your side.

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If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the acting editor **Jon Coates** on 01303 817048, or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Swale blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 500 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.yourswale.co.uk.

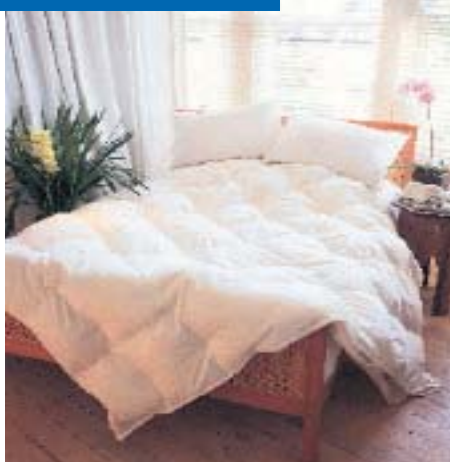
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To be in with a chance of winning this fantastic holiday, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Jersey Holiday Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, TN25 6SR.

The closing date is July 29, 2009.

Kent International Airport



Question: What day does the Kent International flight operate to Jersey?

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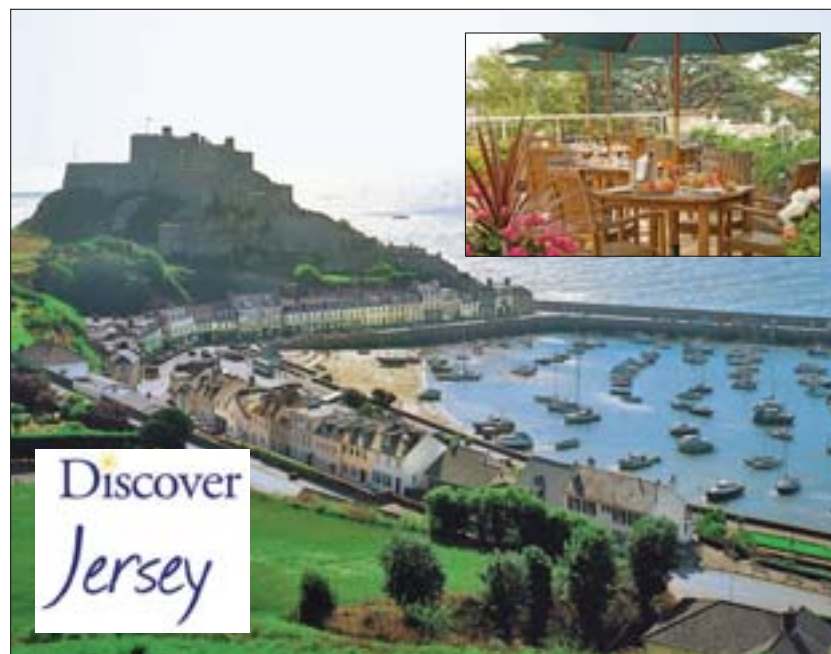
If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.

Only one entry per household. Correct entries will be drawn at random on July 30 and a winner selected. The winner will be notified by post. The prize is non-transferable and includes two free flights from Kent International Airport, departing August 29 for a week.

Seven nights accommodation at the Merton Hotel in a twin room on a bed and breakfast basis. Transfers to hotel are included.

The competition is open to all UK residents aged 18 years and over. Promotion excludes employees and their immediate families of the promoters, any agencies of the promoters and anyone professionally connected with the promotion.

All personal data collected via this promotion will only be used for the purpose of marketing the holidays and travel offered by Discover Jersey & Guernsey.



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TALK TIME

SAMANTHA DAVIDSON

Sergeant Samantha Davidson, a dental hygienist with the Royal Army Dentist Corps, is one of 151 British Army medics on exercise in Kenya



What are your impressions of Kenya?

I have been amazed at how resilient people are here, and their ability to smile, especially children who have had to have four teeth taken out at times. People have come back to thank us, once the numbness had worn off, for taking out teeth that had been hurting them for years. You would never be thanked for taking out people's teeth in the UK.

What do you do on an average day?

I work in different villages with a dentist and a dental support specialist, this means seeing on average 35 patients a day, and a significant number of tooth extractions. The temporary dental clinics we set up every other day in a new location is often the only chance villagers have of dental care in their lifetime.

What are challenges of working in that environment?

As a hygienist and bit of cross infection control freak I am finding the dirt and being dirty difficult, but I am 100 per cent enjoying it and am so glad to be here. There is so much to take away from this experience professionally, emotionally and militarily. We take so much for granted – even owning a tooth brush. I can't thank the British Health Foundation for their supplies, and Oral B enough for the 500 toothbrushes they gave me to be able to distribute at schools where children are otherwise using sticks.

YOUR LETTERS

Council's Bike-to-Work day a wheel letdown



It was a nice idea but not realistic

It was hardly surprising that only 12 staff cycled to work for Swale council's Bike to Work Day, as you highlighted last week.

Out of the more than 300 council employees this could be interpreted as laziness.

But I think it's worth remembering that cycling on our roads really isn't fun these days.

As a keen cyclist I am always appalled at the lack of patience, consideration and respect shown by motorists towards people on bicycles. We are seen as a nuisance to scare out of the way by car and van drivers rushing to get somewhere.

It used to be that a cycle along



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NOT only can you use email and letters to respond to our stories, don't forget you can comment via our website too.

Beneath most stories on the www.yoursware.co.uk website there is the facility to leave your comments on whatever YOU thought of the online article. To leave your remarks, simply click on the 'Add your comments' link and tell us what you think. And remember, www.yoursware.co.uk is updated daily, bringing you the latest, breaking news from across Faversham, Sittingbourne, Sheerness and all the villages in Swale.

We will include the best on these pages too – ensuring your comments reach the widest possible audience. In addition, if you find your newsagent, supermarket or petrol station runs out of Yoursware before you've picked up your copy, you never need to miss out.

On www.yoursware.co.uk you can access, for free, the full newspaper in our highly-acclaimed e-editions.

country lanes was relaxing and good exercise, but now you are dicing with death if a maniac comes flying round blind bends.

I think the ethos of the Bike to Work scheme was good but maybe not realistic in the mod-

ern age. It might be better to urge council staff to use public transport instead of their cars for a day, at least they would be safe that way.

The other alternative is to ban cars completely and make every-

one rides bikes – but I can't see that happening!

Jackie Knight,
by letter.



Jacko's mourners should just Beat It

Is it just me, or has everyone gone totally over the top about Michael Jackson?

Okay he made a few good albums, and the songs were alright and the videos clever.

But he certainly was no saint and that is even before you start looking into the allegations over his private life.

It seems as soon as anyone dies now a sort of Princess Di factor comes into play.

Everyone uses it as an occasion for relentless outpourings of grief.

It certainly is tragic for his family and I am sure his fans will miss the opportunity to

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watch his shows and buy his music, if any new releases were forthcoming.

But as a general cause for upset and tears – no I don't think so.

James Heath,
by email.

What the deuce do I care for tennis?

Is anyone else fed up to the back teeth with Wimbledon? In a World Cup or Euro Championship summer it is mercifully ranked right at the bottom of the sporting ladder – what

Two weeks of tennis isn't much to ask

In response to "What the deuce do I care for tennis" in last week's letters page, I would just like to say that Wimbledon gives us superb coverage of fantastic tennis for just two weeks every year.

The Ashes is going to last for five days for five matches. That's 25 days, assuming the weather stays fine!

As for football, what a bore that is, seeing all those overpaid prima donnas prancing round is just too much.

Surely no one can begrudge us tennis fans our two weeks of

sporting pleasure? Come on, be reasonable.

Barbara Doughty,
from Faversham, by email.

Sporting priorities are all wrong on TV

I agree with the letter by Ian Paynter in last week's paper. It seems to have been ages coming but at last the Ashes will soon be here.

After weeks – it seems like years – of having to put up with the tedious antics of the grunting women of Wimbledon there is real sport about to come to everyone's attention.

Hang on though – it won't will it?

While the BBC spends millions on its coverage of Wimbledon and that other non-sport Formula 1, only those with Sky will be able to see one of the top sporting rivalries in the world go head-to-head for a gripping two months or so. The England-Australia Test match series is one of the jewels in the crown of world sport and last time it was on in this country it gripped the nation.

That's not going to happen this time around whatever the result and however exciting the games are.

It is not fair that we have to suffer loads of boring sports and not get to see a minute of one that has been part of this nation's sporting history for more than a century.

The BBC has not got its priorities anywhere near right.

Anthony Lockwood,
by email.

Give a carer the break they deserve

Did your readers know there are currently 700,000 people with dementia, including Alzheimer's disease, in the UK?

It is estimated there will be over a million people with dementia by 2025. Caring for a loved one with dementia can be a lonely, stressful experience. The feeling of disconnection is hardest to bear.

There may be precious moments of clarity, when memories return and the years roll away, but for the most part carers have to watch their loved ones drifting slowly away.

So many carers are in need of respite, but opportunities to be relieved of the caring role for even a short time are few and far between. I work at a place called Vitalise Jubilee Lodge in Chigwell, Essex, an accessible respite break centre for disabled people and carers run by national charity Vitalise.

We regularly have special weeks for people with Alzheimer's and dementia and their partners.

Relieved of all their care worries, carers can regain their strength and reconnect with their loved ones.

If you or someone you care about is affected by Alzheimer's or dementia and you would like to know more about our special Alzheimer's Weeks, please call 0845 345 1970 or email bookings@vitalise.org.uk.

Eddy Marie,
from Vitalise Jubilee Lodge, by email.

The Aspinall Foundation 2009 totally wild challenge



10k run & 10k/30k bike ride fundraising events

Saturday 5 September 2009

Join us for our totally wild challenge to help raise funds for The Aspinall Foundation's animal conservation projects in Kent and overseas.

- 10k bike ride – ideal for families!
- Fully marshalled with regular drink stations.
- Every finisher gets a medal.
- For a totally tough challenge, you could run AND cycle!
- Event starts and finishes inside Port Lympne Wild Animal Park. Stay and enjoy the park with family and friends for the rest of the day.
- As a charity, we rely solely on public donations so would ask you to raise as much sponsorship as possible.



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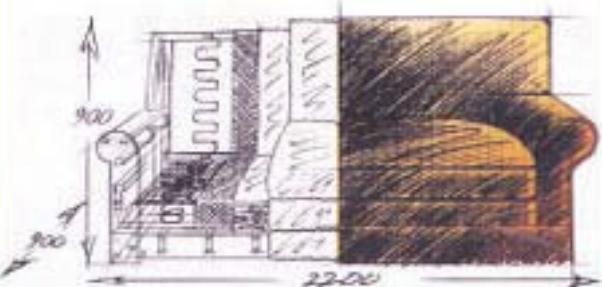
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Get set to rock farm

Hip hop's 'head honcho' Roots Manuva joins Edwyn Collins on star-studded line-up at award-winning festival

LOUNGE ON THE FARM

July 10-12

Merton Farm, near Canterbury



FROM hip hop to indie, Lounge on the Farm presents a diverse range of music treats this year.

Boasting headline acts such as Edwyn Collins and The Horrors, the three-day festival offers new and established acts from a variety of genres.

The Saturday night headliner has been announced as seminal UK performer Roots Manuva.

Following the example of Glastonbury boss Michael Eavis, who added US superstar Jay-Z to the bill last year, LOTF organiser Matt Gough has decided to bring the "head honcho of UK hip hop" to Kent.

The music starts on Friday when Hobo Jones and The JD, A Hawk & A Hacksaw, Toddla T, Los Salvadores, The King Blues and Gong are just some of the great acts taking to the stage before headline act The Horrors brings the day to a close.

Saturday's entertainment includes performances by Krafty Kuts, The Temper Trap, Portico Quartet and The Aliens, alongside nearly 30 other acts.

Sunday's final line-up includes Underground Heroes, Krissy & The Jackdaws, the James Taylor Quartet, Son of Dave, Dan Le Sac v Pip, Mr Scruff, Billy Childish & The MBE and a finale from Edwyn Collins.

Upcoming Kent bands will have the chance to perform after being voted into the line-up by fans and the lucky winners include Elephants, Billy Wears Dresses, The Sketch, Ghost In Mirrors, Twilight Green and The Dukes.

The festival has received much acclaim for its support of local food and drink producers, so there will be plenty of gastronomic delights.

Lounge on the Farm's accolades include The Telegraph's recommendations for top family festivals, while last year's event was among the Times' Top 10 Boutique Festivals, the Observer's Top 20 Festivals You've Never Heard Of and the Guardian's



STAR TURNS: Saturday headliner Roots Manuva, and right, Edwyn Collins, who brings the festival to a close on Sunday

Best Family Festivals. Organisers also earned a Greener Festival Award for their commitment to environmentally-friendly working practices.

Despite the recession, early bird tickets sold out in record time this year. Full weekend tickets cost £85 for adults, £45 for children and £180 for families of two adults and two children. Children aged five and under are admitted for free. For full festival listings and to book tickets visit the website at www.loungeon-thefarm.co.uk.



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TWELFTH NIGHT

Wednesday, July 8 to Friday, July 17
Mount Ephraim Gardens, near Faversham



MISTAKEN identities, cross-dressing and yellow stockings abound in Shakespeare's comedy, Twelfth Night.

The open-air production is being presented by the new Kent Shakespeare Company, continuing a tradition which started 27 years ago. Kent Countryside Productions attracted a strong following for its outdoor plays at Mount Ephraim, but when one of the founder members retired last year, many people involved wanted the tradition to survive.

Led by Guy Wade and John Payne, the Kent Shakespeare Company will continue the former firm's charitable work.

Both devoted fans and newcomers to the Bard's work will be captivated by this play, which remains one of Shakespeare's most popular comic works. Some audiences may be surprised to discover that Twelfth Night is both funny and relevant to modern society.

Audiences should bring blankets or folding chairs to sit on and are welcome to enjoy a picnic during the show. Tickets are available from Barley Mow in Court Street, Faversham, online at www.kentshakespeare.co.uk or by calling 020 3287 5111.

JANE WEBSTER

Sunday, July 12
Dominican Priory, Canterbury



THE Friends of the Marlowe Theatre continue to present top quality shows, even while the theatre is closed for redevelopment.

Mezzo-soprano Jane Webster gave the last concert for the Friends in the theatre's Café Bar and now she returns to delight the audience in another venue. Accompanied by pianist Nicholas Bosworth, she will perform a concert of well-loved tunes from opera, operetta and the West End, in her own individual style.

Webster performs with much glamour and panache, which means tickets for her concerts are always in demand. Together they will present a programme that will feature something for everyone, including works by Gershwin, Strauss, Hammerstein, Sondheim, Bernstein, Puccini and many more.

Webster recently appeared at the London Palladium as the Mother Abbess in some performances of The Sound of Music. Bosworth is a pianist in high demand, was senior coach for Carmen at Glyndebourne last autumn and has been busy recording.

The concert starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £12.50 including a glass of wine, concessions available. To book call the Marlowe Theatre box office on 01227 787787.



CHERRY FESTIVAL

Saturday, July 11 and Sunday, July 12
Brogdale Farm, Faversham



CHERRIES have been pleasing British taste buds since AD46 and the fruit's longevity will be celebrated at the UK's largest cherry festival.

Brogdale Farm is home to the National Fruit Collection and its annual Cherry Festival will feature over 50 different varieties of cherries to taste and buy, with more than 300 varieties growing in the orchards.

The weekend will also include fruit identification and advice, demonstrations on planting a fruit garden, basic grafting demonstrations, planning and care of allotments, organic gardening and flower arranging.

There will be cookery demonstrations with top Kent chef Scot Anderson, tours of the orchards, a gundog display, craft, produce and plant stalls, bar and barbecue, archery and live music with Sejuice. For the children, there will be free face-painting, bouncy castle, games and rides on the miniature railway.

For details of the Cherry Festival and other events at Brogdale Farm, go to www.brogdalecollections.co.uk.



SWALE LEISURE

Sculpture will give you inspiration for home

FIND inspiration for your home or office at Polka Dot Art Centre's exhibition.

Sculpture in the Garden is being shown in the grounds of the centre in London Road, Teynham, until Sunday, August 30.

Polka Dot Art Centre is open from 10am to 4pm, Friday to Sunday. For more information call 01795 521167 or visit www.polkadotac.co.uk.

Singers invited to take to the stage at pub

BRING an instrument, sing a song or just join in the friendly atmosphere at Faversham Folk Club tonight.

The club is holding a Singers Night at the Chimney Boy in Preston Street, from 8.30pm. Admission is £1.

For more information about the club and upcoming events, call 01795 423674 or go to www.favershamfolkclub.net.

Art and conservation at gunpowder works

SEE artists in action and find out more about local conservation at Oare Gunpowder Works on Sunday.

Artists in the Woods is being organised in association with the Friends of Oare Gunpowder Works, so visitors can learn about the group's work while seeing artists and musicians at work.

Guided walks will be available at the event from 10am-4pm on Sunday. If you would like to join the volunteers email Nick Stewart at oarenick@hotmail.com.

Villagers invite you to come into the garden

CELEBRATE the summer with Pimms on the green, ploughman's lunches and local beers at Newnham village open gardens event on July 19.

Activities include a kids' treasure hunt, afternoon teas and the ringing of the newly restored church bells.

The event runs from 1-6pm. Admission is £4 for adults, accompanied children free. Call 01795 890537 for more details.

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yourswalemusic

High Rocks Festival re-jig gives Power to the people

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

AS THE old adage goes, good things come to those who wait.

And so it proves to be for British Sea Power fans, with the Mercury Music Prize-nominated indie stars set to headline the re-arranged High Rocks music festival in Tunbridge Wells next month.

The Brighton-based outfit were originally booked to perform at the Sonic Heights 'A Day With British Sea Power' one-dayer earlier this summer but pulled out citing recording commitments.

But the Sonic Heights team were able to pull some strings, moving the whole music marathon to Sunday August 2.

The move sees existing ticketholders avoid disappointment and increases the likelihood of BSP playing brand new, never-heard-before material.

Sonic Heights' Chris Pritchard said he thought their debut event was shaping up well.

He said: "British Sea Power in a converted barn in Tunbridge Wells. It does not get much better than that."

"Sonic Heights are thrilled to be putting on this show, especially it being our first."

"It was a shame the event has had to be moved. The fact that we have to be patient for longer is the biggest frustration, but with possible issues occurring during the recording session, we didn't want this show being the reason for a delay of hearing the band's new material."

Scores of bands are being lined up on the undercard, with Tom Williams & The Boat, The Help Movement, Lights Go Blue, Maker



and Krissy & The Jackdaws already agreeing to play.

More bands and DJs are set to be unveiled nearer the time.

The High Rocks festival is open to over-16s only. Music runs from 2pm to midnight. Tickets cost £16.

For more information visit www.wegotickets.com/event/50660

LINE UP

A Day With...
British Sea Power
Tom Williams & The Boat
The Help Movement
Lights Go Blue
Maker
Krissy & The Jackdaws



LINE-UP: Brighton's British Sea Power (top) will be joined at High Rocks by Tom Williams & The Boat (above)

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HAIR-RAISING: Josh Weller plays She Shot Me at The Farmhouse, Canterbury



RUN WITH IT: Luke Jackson performs a cover of Snow Patrol hit Run



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- 2 My Last Mistake - 22/7 The Bargate, Gillingham
- 3 Venxia - 2/8 The Loft, Maidstone
- 4 Salvador Charlie - 14/8 Cramptons, Broadstairs
- 5 Kayley Weller - 30/8 The Three Horseshoes, Mongeham



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A suicidal postman receives spiritual guidance from famously-philosophical midfielder Eric Cantona in this quirky British film exploring the escape football offers fans in their hour of need.

TRANSFORMERS: REVENGE OF THE FALLEN (15)



The robots continue their feud in this sequel, with more slam-bang thrills and skirmishes between the noble Autobots and the Decepticons.

Cameron steps up to the role of desperate mum

■ BY KATE WHITING

AFTER years of playing the ditz blonde known for having one of the broadest smiles in Hollywood, Cameron Diaz is moving on.

Following roles in comedies such as *Charlie's Angels* and *What Happens In Vegas*, she admits that it was new territory acting in the big-screen adaptation of Jodi Picoult's heart-rending novel *My Sister's Keeper*.

Reflecting on her portrayal of mother Sara Fitzgerald, whose child is dying from leukaemia, she explains that she had to grow into the role.

"There was a certain level of maturity that had to come with playing this role, that I think I had to step up to, which I was happy and thankful for," she says, picking her words carefully.

In the film, Fitzgerald chooses to have a second child by IVF as a blood and marrow donor for her first daughter Kate.

The movie co-stars 13-year-old Abigail Breslin, best known for her Oscar-nominated turn in 2007's *Little Miss Sunshine*, as the youngest daughter Anna, who sues her parents for the medical rights to her own body, when she's expected to donate a kidney to her sister Kate (Sofia Vassilieva).

Cameron, 36, admits it was a "touchy" role to take on, but she felt ready for it: "It was a nice stepping stone in the experience of life."

Casting Cameron as a mother of three teenage kids is an unusual choice, but director Nick Cassavetes, who won acclaim for 2004's *The Notebook*, thought otherwise.

He picked her precisely because she had done so little drama, saying: "I really didn't want to cast an actress who had done some-



BIG SMILE: Cameron Diaz is trying something new

thing similar for this film."

And Cameron hasn't let him down. She speaks so passionately about Sara, it's easy to see she put a lot of herself into the film.

"I feel like Sara is a warrior," she gushes.

"She doesn't have a moment not to be vigilant. She can't be apathetic one second of the day."

"She has a child who's dying and she has

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been through a decade of this vigilance. So, she's just sort of pushing through this."

To research the role, Cameron met mothers with sick children who were going through the same experience as Sara.

"No matter what the circumstances were - everybody had a different financial position or some were married and some were divorced - they all said that there's just not a moment that you aren't focused on keeping your child alive," she says.

"What's so wonderful with this film is that you see how it's not one person's story - it's not just a mother losing a daughter, it's a sister losing a sister or a brother losing a sister, a family losing their family together, all of them suffering separately as well as together."

MY SISTER'S KEEPER 
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■ Chart Hills Golf Club in Biddenden is offering 10 per cent off all food and beverages

■ Robins and Day Maidstone Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering £29.99 services and MOTs from £119.99

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

Summer savings for our readers

COMPANIES' traditionally fight their battles against rival firms in the same sector.

But in the current economic situation, firms with an eye on the future are equally engaged with a fight against the conditions in the marketplace.

In this latest edition of Money Matters we offer some advice from the experts on how firms can keep themselves fighting fit by taking steps to avoid becoming the victims of fraudsters – from inside and outside the organisation.

There are also some top tips for individuals planning their pensions, and individuals looking for

a safe place for their savings. Gold is making a comeback, and you may soon even be able to buy it from a vending machine.

We also feature some of the many money-saving offers available at vouchersforkent.co.uk. There are offers for leisure, food and drink; motors and servicing; retail trades and services; and

also from members of the Canterbury Independent Traders.

It really couldn't be more easy to do. Just flick through the online books, print out the offers you want, and then start saving money.

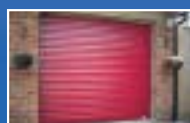
Summer puts us all in a good mood, and we hope these offers will help you to make the most of the sunny months.

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SURVIVOR'S MESSAGE: IT consultant and director of HDG Networks Ltd, Jonathan Gwyer

Refusing to be bowed or beaten

By **TONY PATEY**

WHITSTABLE businessman Jonathan Gwyer is not allowing the current economic crisis to get him down.

Mr Gwyer, 37, wears a badge that states: 'I refuse to participate in a recession.' And he wants more people to do the same.

He said: "It seems some people have written off the year. We are still proactive and positive."

As an IT consultant and director of HDG Networks Ltd, the father-of-four is also chapter director of the local BNI, a business networking body.

Mr Gwyer admits there have been some hairy moments through the financial problems of the past year "like the moment Iceland's Icesave bank went into receivership."

"That was just before Christmas, and all of our capital was in that bank. We were very relieved when the Government rescued depositors."

At a time now when many large and small businesses are struggling, HDG Networks is confident that it can still be business as usual.

"I am finding that as a smaller business with lower overheads, we are getting work with companies that are trying to grow while keeping costs down."

"In a recent job, I was called in and the company in question had been quoted more than £4,000 for an expansion of their IT system."

"We were able to give them a more bespoke solution, and it wasn't necessary for them to spend anywhere near so much money. They were delighted."

"In a crisis such as this, businesses must adapt and we will do what it takes."

"We're doing everything from installing wireless and broadband in homes or offices, to building websites, teaching people how to run their own website or breathing new life into old PCs, in fact pretty much any kind of IT support."

Mr Gwyer set up HDG Networks in 2007, after 16 years at the drugs giant Pfizer in Sandwich.

He said: "I knew I could offer small businesses the kind of support that big business demands but within their own budgets."

"My wife, Helen, supported me all the way with my decision, I think she wondered what took me so long."

To find out how you can get your own badge, contact Mr Gwyer at www.hdgnet.com.

BNI
I refuse to participate in a recession.

Business of identity theft

ONE of our clients had its registered office changed without the company's knowledge.

This was done by someone simply printing off a filed form with the company secretary's name on and then tracing the signature onto form 287, enabling the change of registered office. The address remained changed for a period of some 14 days before the fraud was discovered by the company's auditors on a routine visit and corrective action taken.

The threat

Companies House estimates that there are between 50-100 cases of corporate identity fraud every month. While this is against a backdrop of tens of thousands of documents received each month, the cost incurred by British business as a result of corporate identity fraud has been estimated at more than £50 million each year.

Obtaining or changing a company's identity is surprisingly straightforward.

For example, a fraudster may file a change of registered office notice or change of directors' details at Companies House by signing one simple form. No great legal knowledge is required and copies of a serving company officer's signature are readily available from Companies House.

They accept paper documentation in 'good faith' and as such, will register documentation received without sending any further notification to a company that its details have been changed.

It is perfectly possible therefore, for a fraudster to appoint him or herself as a director of a target company, or alternatively change the target company's registered office address to one which the fraudster has access.

If you think identity theft only applies to individuals, then think again. **David Hallett**, a solicitor in the commercial team at Kent law firm Buss Murton, analyses corporate identity theft in the county

Once the registered office address has been successfully changed, all Companies House notices will be sent there.

Even worse, a customer or supplier may only send money or goods to the new registered office address as a matter of policy rather than sending those goods or money to the company's established trading address.

The fraudster only needs to be successful once at intercepting money or goods before targeting another company. Inevitably, by the time the company or authorities learn of the fraudulent activity, the fraudster will have moved and the postal address will be vacant.

The solution

However, there are procedures that can be put in place that will help to dramatically reduce the threat of identity fraud. These include:

1. Online filing. Every UK company is able to register for an authentication code (much like a pin number) with Companies House. Upon registration for this code a company is then able to submit certain documents (such as the annual return, 288a (appointment of a director) and 287 (change of registered office address) online. The use of online filing substantially reduces the risk of such documents going astray in the postal system.

2. PROOF scheme. Once a company has obtained an authentication code from Companies House, the company can then sign

up to the Protected Online Filing Service (known as PROOF). Once signed up (using form PR1), Companies House will then not accept paper copies of the forms listed under point 1 above. These documents will only be accepted electronically (submitted using the authentication code). Therefore, provided the authentication code is kept safe and treated as if it were a bank account pin number, then the chances of a fraudster being able to change a company's identity are dramatically reduced.

3. Monitor. Companies or individuals can register so that they are automatically notified of all changes that occur to a company's details held at Companies House. The cost of this service can be as little as 50p per year. Once signed up to a monitoring service, the nominated individual will receive an automatic update as soon as Companies House accepts and files a document in relation to a chosen company.

In addition to this, company information should always be stored securely and any information that is to be destroyed should be done so securely (as you would when destroying personal information such as your bank statements).

• **David Hallett is a solicitor in Buss Murton LLP's company and commercial department in Tunbridge Wells. He can be contacted at the firm's Tunbridge Wells office on 01892 502306.**

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■ Canterbury Mazda Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering £29.95 on MOTs while you wait

■ Village Hotel in Maidstone is offering a free bowl of strawberries and cream when you buy a two course meal in the Victory Pub

■ JC Farley furniture store in Ramsgate is offering half-price duvet and pillows with every bed purchased

■ Northgate Alfa Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering fixed-price servicing for cars three years plus. Bronze Care Petrol or Diesel £109

■ Hazel Motors in Chatham is offering £14 off registered retail price for class 4 MOTs and £7.70 off class 7 MOTs

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A timely code for

Big businesses make a pledge to increase the speed of payments to smaller companies

CREDIT management experts have welcomed a pledge from big businesses to pay invoices from suppliers on time.

The Institute of Credit Management (ICM) said it hoped the companies would live up to their word to pay on time and sign the Prompt Payment Code.

Some 11 new high-profile companies including Barclays, Sony UK, Sky and B&Q have committed to sign the code, as part of a campaign designed to help increase the speed of payments to smaller companies.

The code, developed with the ICM and supported by major business organisations, aims to establish a clear and consistent policy, and a climate of greater certainty in the payment of business-to-business invoices.

It is being hosted by the ICM at www.prompt-paymentcode.org.uk and includes a facility for suppliers to raise concerns about late payers.

The code focuses on three main areas: a commitment to pay suppliers on time; to give clear guidance to suppliers; and to encourage good practice.

The Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform group and the ICM have also issued a leaflet highlighting the benefits of paying on time and why it is important to become a

■ BY TONY PATEY

signatory to the Prompt Payment Code.

Business minister Shriti Vadera said: "Late payment can be the final straw for small business in the current climate."

"So the commitment by major companies heading up supply chains to pay on time is a win for all businesses."

Lovetts, one of the UK's leading debt recovery law firms has revealed that companies are 'going legal' on unpaid invoices a whopping 39 days sooner than a year ago.

The findings suggest that in the current economic downturn, businesses are only too mindful of the impact of late payments on cash flow and are acting quickly to reduce their exposure to bad debt.

Survival

Lovetts analysed the Letters Before Action (LBAs) issued on behalf of its customers in February 2009 against the same month in 2008, which revealed a 39-day acceleration in clients 'going legal'. LBAs are used to secure payment, or to obtain a response from a customer before the commencement of a claim.

Chairman and managing director of Lovetts,

Charles Wilson, said: "With recent news that the number of British businesses that fail is set to rise to 36,000 in 2009, the equivalent of one in every 56 companies, businesses are only too acutely aware of the potential for bad debt and the devastating impact this can have on their own survival."

"With all businesses trying to manage cash flow when there is little credit available, it's a spiral of suppliers chasing customers for money they are reluctant to release."

"The previous attitude towards frequent late payers may have been accepting and forgiving, but the current tough climate is pushing businesses to press for payment on time in order to protect themselves."

"Our figures certainly suggest that British businesses are determined not to be victims of bad debt and will employ all the tactics available to get paid, including pursuing debt through the courts."

"In particular it is encouraging to see that a growing number of companies are exercising their right to charge for compensation and interest on late payments."

"In this economic climate businesses need to ensure they are tackling late payment and bad debt head on. For small businesses in particular, it can be a matter of survival or failure."

To keep the cash flowing Lovetts suggests businesses consider the following actions:

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late payers



SURVIVAL: Paying on time can be vital to help small companies survive the recession

- Bring your collection cycle forward, the sooner you get on top of potential debt problems, the better
- Seek compensation and interest through late payment legislation earlier and apply it on an invoice-by-invoice basis
- If you have interest provisions in your terms, consider whether they are sufficiently robust. Businesses with a rate linked to bank base rates are vulnerable here. Scrap the provision and rely on the 'late payment' legislation which gives eight per cent interest

over base rate, but don't forget to circulate the new terms to your customers.

- Instruct debt recovery lawyers early
- Avoid throwing good money after bad by conducting a credit-check. If the debtor is clearly struggling, negotiate realistic instalment payments or consider a discount for immediate payment.
- If the decision is to issue a claim, be resolute in pursuing it. If the debtor asks for invoices, supply copies and any information they want quickly.

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■ KOS is offering ultra-slim Danish Skagen watches for men and women at only £69.99, a saving £20 on the RRP

■ EC Bates motorbikes shop in Dartford is offering zero per cent finance on selected Yamaha and Suzuki models

■ KOS is offering a leather organiser handbag by Jane Shilton for only £49.99 inc p&p, saving £40 off RRP

■ The Orchard Restaurant in Maidstone is offering Meal Deals Monday-Saturday 7.30pm-9pm. Select a main meal and alcoholic or soft drink for £4.95

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

By JEREMY GATES

WHEN two of Britain's leading firms announced big cutbacks to company pension schemes last month, they highlighted once again the problems facing millions of private-sector workers when they stop work.

BP closes its final salary pension scheme to new entrants from April, 2010, while Barclays Bank is taking 18,000 staff out of its final-salary scheme and into an inferior defined contributions (DC) scheme, albeit with some protection against swings in the stock market.

Barclays currently pays £350 million a year into its pension fund.

Although both schemes will be superior to the average company DC scheme, the events suggest final-salary schemes could soon vanish altogether in the private sector.

Britain's biggest FTSE 100 companies, facing total pension fund deficits of nearly £30 billion, have little option if they are to survive the recession.

Morrisons last month switched 4,500 workers from a final-salary pension scheme into one based on average salary, while BT's share price continues to suffer from fears about its huge pension fund deficit.

Nearly three-quarters of a million British workers retire in 2009 and with the value of pensions assets held around the world slashed by more than £3bn since 2007, many will have trouble making ends meet.

A survey of people aged 60-plus by Intune, the financial services provider owned by Age Concern and Help The Aged, says 55 per cent of private pension holders are disappointed with the income they expect to get.

If they could do it all again, some 39 per cent would have started a pension earlier or paid more into it. Many would have switched pension contributions into a savings account or an ISA investment, or paid the mortgage off much faster.

Pensions are put under pressure

Mervyn Kohler, special advisor to Age Concern and Help The Aged, said: "Around 680,000 people are hitting retirement age this year, and more may be looking at buying an annuity earlier because they have been made redundant."

The downturn is savaging private sector pensions. Anybody with a £50,000 pension pot retiring in 2009 will be 27 per cent worse off – around £20 per week – than somebody who quit in 2008.

Laith Khalaf, pensions analyst at financial advisor Hargreaves Lansdown, said: "Many firms are likely to follow Barclays and BP over the next two years, although the new BP scheme, with total contributions at 15 per cent of salary, will still be pretty good."

Struggling

"As they see the markets recover, firms will close off final salary schemes to ensure they do not hit another downturn with that millstone around their necks."

Approaching 60, most people can do little about their pension income. By then, it's too late.

At 30 or 40, however, there is still time to make sensible financial preparations for old age.

If you start saving for a pension at 25, about 15 per cent of salary should go into a pension pot. At 35, it should be 20 per cent, and thereafter a higher percentage, the later you start.

In fact, the average contribution into private-sector pensions is barely 10 per cent – and two-thirds of private-sector workers have no personal pension scheme in place at all.

Here are the options for workers struggling to find value for money from a private-sector pension scheme:

- Give up – don't put a penny in your pension. Anybody retiring on the basic State pension (£95.25 per week) and no other savings can claim Pension Credit for £130 per week.

- Once you're in a pension scheme, stick at it – because your employer probably tops up your monthly contribution.

- However, if your employer's scheme isn't particularly attractive, put other money into an alternative savings vehicle – a tax-free ISA perhaps, or alternative personal pension, or even a Self Invested Personal Pension (SIPP) which allows a wider choice of funds, chosen with or without expert advice.

- Drawdown option: if your fund is a minimum £100,000 and you have other savings besides your pension, there may be a case for taking the 25 per cent tax-free lump sum on retirement and leaving the rest invested.

Then you buy an annuity at any time you like until the age of 75.

- Delay your State pension, rather than your private one. On your State pension, each one-year delay adds 10.4 per cent to weekly income – so a £100 pension is worth £110.40 if it was started a year ago. If you defer a State pension at 65 for one year, you make up all the money lost by age 76.

- Don't rush off to the public sector, where pensions provision is more generous and guaranteed by the taxpayers.

Even though five million public-sector workers are still guaranteed final salary pensions, there's a possibility hard-up governments will have to cut the 'perk' in due course because it will look ridiculously unfair compared to the problems already facing private-sector workers.

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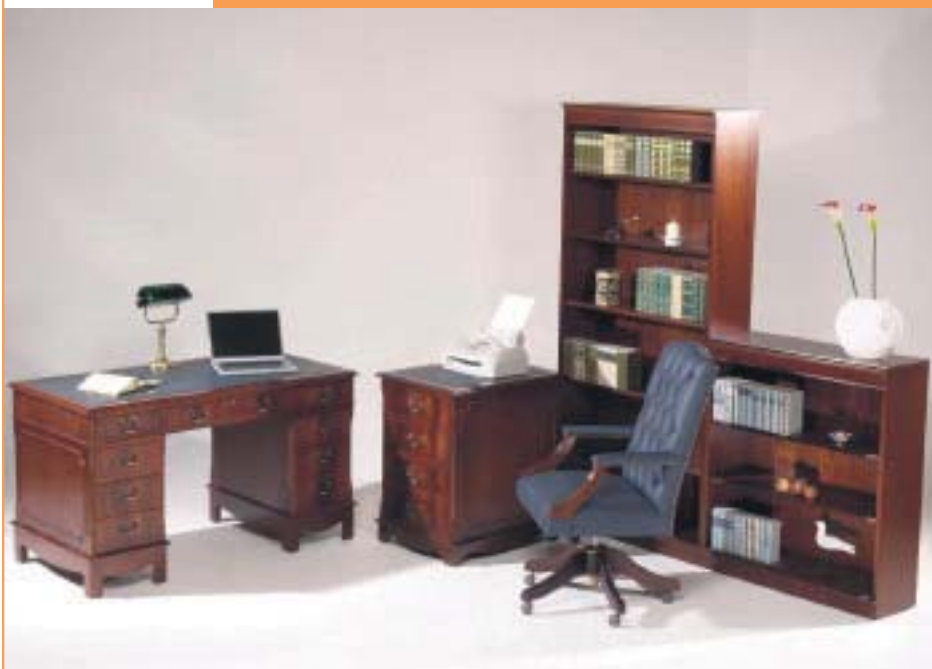
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Golden times for savvy savers

BY JEREMY GATES

ANY savers and investors unsettled by the recent disagreement between the Governor of the Bank of England and the Chancellor of the Exchequer over financial regulation might be consulting their budget-airline timetables.

It was confirmed last week that Germany will introduce gold vending-machines as a new method of storing wealth.

While gloomy Britons contemplate poor returns on cash and shares, shoppers at Frankfurt Airport can buy a one-gram wafer of gold for £25, or a 10g bar for £245 – with gold coins also available if required.

“German investors have always preferred to hold a lot of personal wealth in gold, for historical reasons. They have twice lost everything,” the owner of the firm installing 500 Gold to Go machines in German-speaking countries told the Financial Times.

But with gold prices from machines about 30 per cent higher than market prices for the cheapest product, even Germans – who bought 108 tonnes of gold in 2008, up from 36 tonnes in 2007 – might have doubts about this new scheme.

Few dispute, however, that gold has been a strong performer in recent financial earthquakes.

Adrian Ash, head of research at BullionVault, an online service for gold bullion investment with 14,000 private investors worldwide, said somebody selling a home at the average price in Britain in 2004 could have bought 695 ounces of gold (at £220 per ounce) with the cash.

Today, with gold up to £603 an ounce, they could buy the average-price home back for 253 ounces. Or they could sell all the gold to buy 2.7 average-price houses.

In the intervening period, of course, they would have needed to stay with friends or family. Even 695 ounces of gold doesn't put a roof over your head.

“Real interest rates in the UK have averaged just 1.8 per cent so far this decade – barely two-fifths the real return on cash in the 1980s and 1990s,” Ash explained.

“The gold price in sterling, in contrast, has risen four-fold and more, as money's competitive

edge as a store of wealth has been steadily eroded. Physical gold ownership looks attractive to individuals worried about the future of savings.

“Gold's appeal is only likely to grow until real returns paid to cash turn sharply higher.”

Financial advisor Hargreaves Lansdown (HL) leaves share tips off the front page of its latest newsletter to small clients, and makes a case for gold instead.

“Given the current economic environment, it is time to revisit the merits or otherwise of the ‘yellow metal’,” says HL's Richard Hunter.

“It has proved a remarkably resilient store of value over hundreds of years, and in addition is an asset where investors seek protection when they need it most.”

He notes the net inflow of funds into all types of gold investment soared 80 per cent to a record £18 billion in 2008, despite falling demand for gold jewellery in India and the Middle East.

Many of HL's small investors use the BlackRock Gold & General fund to gain exposure to gold markets. It holds shares in 40-70 companies, most of them gold producers.

“It is realistic to have five per cent of your long-term savings in this fund,” says HL's Mark Dampier.

“Gold may be a fickle animal, but given serious geopolitical and economic problems, there is reason to see gold prices going significantly higher from here.”

There are various way for individuals to hold gold: Exchange Traded Funds, jewellery, coins (sovereigns or kruggerands) and bars, or derivatives which track gold prices among them.

Mining shares are another option. Hunter reckons a five per cent rise in gold prices triggers a 10-15 per cent hike in share prices, though this effect works equally strongly in the opposite direction.

At discount broker Killik & Co, analyst Mike Gilligan says: “Investor scepticism about the rationale for gold investment is valid, given that it is a non-income-producing asset hard to value from a fundamental perspective.”

“However, the macroeconomic case for higher gold prices remains intact.”

“The recent spike in gold prices on the back of plans for US quantitative easing serves to reinforce our view that gold will serve as an insurance policy against inflationary pressures and/or economic dislocation.”

Volatile

Gilligan thinks gold demand could soar if Japan and China eventually reduce their vast dollar surpluses.

Frank Cochran, at financial advisor FSC Investment Services, notes that BlackRock Gold and General has performed “out of its skin”.

“Available data suggests gold prices going higher from here,” he said.

“In a high-risk portfolio, we might have 25 per cent in this fund. Lower-risk investors prefer five-10 per cent. The fund is a long-term hold, for capital growth rather than income.”

The downside is that gold's price remains highly volatile: since February, for example, the price has dropped from £700 to £576 per ounce, a fall of 18 per cent.

If Chancellor Alistair Darling has it right, the ‘green shoots’ of recovery might return us to a financial world we know and understand.

If it doesn't, the attractions of gold are likely to increase, even if few of us are ready to buy at a vending-machine.



BANKER: The financial attractions of gold investment are likely to increase

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Red tape, a growing cost for businesses

BY **ANDREW JONES**

SMALL businesses in the South East lose more than £1.4 billion every year due to government red tape, new figures have shown.

Research carried out by small business lobby and support group the Forum of Private Business (FPB) found firms in the region spend around £1,403 million each year complying with legislation – the highest amount for any region in the UK.

The figure, drawn up using feedback from FPB members, means entrepreneurs in the South East face the biggest bill in the country for carrying out the paperwork associated with running a small business.

The £1.4bn figure for the region, based on the amount of company time and money spent complying with the rules, includes £309m spent on health and safety legislation, £361m spent dealing with paperwork on employment law and £37m on dismissals and redundancy.

The work associated with staff absences cost £59m, costs associated with maternity came in at £36m and the work related to disciplinary issues was worked out at £49m.

FPB spokesman Matt Goodman said: "Our research shows complying with red tape remains one of the major cost burdens facing smaller businesses, swallowing up valuable time and money that could be used more profitably elsewhere."

"In addition, at a time when protecting both workers and businesses should be a priority, regulations are increasingly burdensome as businesses take on more staff."

Micro businesses (zero to nine employees) spend an average of 33 hours per month complying with regulations, small businesses (10 to 49 employees) 48 hours per month and medium-sized companies (50 to 249 employers) 131 hours – equivalent to one full-time member of staff.

Employment law is the costliest bureaucratic burden, costing small businesses £2.4bn per year. Health and safety administration costs £2.1bn and tax £1.8bn per year, according to the FPB's research.

The average time per month spent on employment red tape (dismissals and redundancy, discipline, absence controls and management, parental leave, and holidays) is ten hours. For health and safety, it is eight hours.

Business owners spend an average of seven hours each month on tax administration, four on building and property regulations, four on standards, three on environment and waste regulations, and an hour per month on equality and diversity.



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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

Making it your job

How to convince companies you are the right person for the post

WITH jobless figures still rising, you never know when you might need to find a new job and it helps to have some expert advice on how to wow your next employer.

Damian Hayes, head of permanent IT recruitment at Bromley-based recruitment consultancy NetworkersMSB has some tips on how to nail your next role.

New research suggests that on average 16 people are chasing every job in the UK, up from a figure of 10 quoted by the TUC earlier this year.

The number of applicants for low-skilled jobs has also rocketed, with some advertisements attracting hundreds of candidates. Now more than ever it is important to make sure you stand out from the crowd.

Recruiters have seen a marked change in employers' demands lately; many are raising the bar higher than ever before.

Only last year, for example, candidates ticking eight out of 10 boxes for technical skills would have been offered the job but today, fulfilling the technical criteria is a given.

Employers are now placing just as much importance on how well you will fit in to their company and whether you have great communication and interpersonal skills.

Gain a New Skill

If you have time to gain a new qualification or learn a new skill, it will often give you the edge over another candidate with equal experience.

Achieving an additional qualification shows drive and ambition and when companies are becoming leaner and every member of staff is vital, it demonstrates you have the necessary commitment and motivation to get the job done.

Options might be completing an industry or vocational qualification, a business diploma or degree, or simply bringing your IT or language skills up to date.

Transferable Skills

Transferable skills are generic skills you are using every day, such as numeracy, IT literacy, sales or being able to work as part of a team.

Thinking about which of these skills you have might suggest alternative jobs that you could do or a different career path.

For example, someone with strong coaching or presentation experience could consider retraining as a teacher.

It is also worth considering other professions that use similar skill sets to your present job.

Learn a Language

Being able to speak a language can put you at an advantage, particularly if you're applying to work for a global company or for a job

that involves travel abroad.

So, this could be the time to brush up on your schoolboy French or German.

Added Value

Remember to sell yourself and not your job title on your CV. All too often CVs just list previous job titles and responsibilities.

Use the opportunity to illustrate the added value you brought to the role (and can bring to a new one) – such as by introducing a new system to save energy, improving filing, boosting productivity or simply just making the workplace run more smoothly.

Once you've made it to an interview then you have the chance to shine. Make sure you have a good knowledge of the company and its products or services.

Demonstrate a good understanding of what makes the firm tick – its values and ethos – and show how well you would fit into its environment.

Looking Further Afield

Although the UK economy is in recession, other economies are fairing better and for those who have few ties to the UK, now may be an ideal opportunity to fulfil a dream of travelling or working abroad.



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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

Businesses' cash flow

By **TONY PATEY**

BUSINESS owners and managers across Kent are reducing costs, becoming more transparent, and investing in customer service in a bid to keep clients happy and avoid losing valuable business.

That's the picture revealed by new research from independent invoice financier Bibby Financial Services.

While it's not surprising that nearly two thirds (61 per cent) of business owners in the South East are actively pursuing new business as a priority to ride out the downturn, many (55 per cent) appreciate the importance of protecting existing revenue by upping customer service levels.

Transparent

And, more than a third (42 per cent) of the region's business owners are actually increasing their spending on hospitality as a means of retaining existing customers.

In fact, with 44 per cent of small and medium-sized businesses in the South East under pressure from customers to reduce their costs, more than half (56 per cent) of business owners were in the process of trying to balance the books by negotiating better terms with their own suppliers.

The research also revealed one in three business owners in the South East are now more transparent with clients and customers, for example giving them an insight into future business plans.

Despite their best efforts to take control of



KEEPING GOING: Business owners and their managers are reducing costs as they try to keep hold of customers through the current economic climate. Research has also revealed that more than half of businesses (55 per cent) were appreciating the importance of protecting their existing revenue by improving their levels of customer service (far right)

their firm in these unsettling times, effectively managing late payment and improving cash flow is still a major concern for 60 per cent of SME owners in the region.

Bibby Financial Services South East spokesman Andy Leopold said: "The drive for new business is all very well, but not if you're putting your all-important existing client base at risk at the same time."

"While it's promising to see the measures South East businesses are putting in place to survive the recession – ones which will also set them in good stead for long-term success – it is clear cash flow is still a major priority for businesses."

"Although the Government has now introduced several measures aimed at increasing cash flow to small businesses, few of them really seem to be taking hold, not least because the banks are themselves still struggling with liquidity issues."

glings with liquidity issues.

"The important thing is for business owners in the region to look at all aspects of their cash flow situation, whether they need to tackle increasing late payment, or whether they need to change their pricing structure to stimulate client interest."

In most cases, newer business owners, for example those operating since 2006, are more likely to be open and transparent with clients and customers about their situation and future business plans, and least likely to be making changes in relation to cash flow.

Indeed, business owners without experience of previous recessions are least prepared to reduce costs for clients or customers.

In contrast, those who've been running their business for longer and have experienced several other recessions are more likely to view financial changes as a way to get



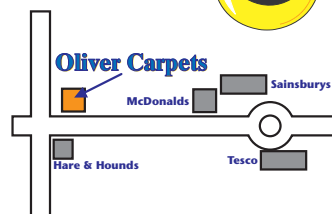
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their business through the recession.

When it comes to business sectors, those in transport are most likely to be following the cash is king mantra, with 86 per cent looking at managing late payment and improving cash flow, compared to just 46 per cent in the hotel and catering sector.

Mr Leopold said: "Irrespective of your experience, whether you're a new business owner or more practised, cash flow should always be your key priority."

"It is worth looking at all potential ways to

improve this, whether it be taking measures to improve client retention, negotiating supply chain deals, or even simply reviewing your finances.

"Taking steps such as talking to your bank to apply for an increased overdraft facility – though at the moment this could be easier said than done – or looking at other cash flow options, such as invoice finance, which frees up the value held in your outstanding invoices, will ensure you are able to focus efforts on getting your business through the recession."

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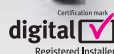
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- KOS is offering rechargeable micro luggage scales for £19.99
- Hobbs Parker in Ashford is offering good quality second hand cars from £500
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- Rochester Court Kitchens in Rochester is offering 20 per cent off solid wood kitchens
- KOS is offering a Garden Sonic Blaster for £29.99
- Addictive Bikes in Ramsgate is offering 10 per cent off all parts and accessories

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Buy a car to save cash

BY **STEVE LOADER**

IT MIGHT sound mad to buy a new car during a recession. But with savings accounts earning so little, you will be surprised by what you can earn by waving your wad around in the car trade, where business has plummeted over the past year.

Fact is, there has been much hype about the Government-sponsored Scrappage scheme launched in May (see later story), but there have been hefty discounts available on most new cars for months now – whether you have a 10-year-old ‘scrapper’ to trade or not.

Discounted

Even if, after raiding the bank account and teasing the dealer, your cash does not stretch to the discounted asking price, there are other deals that can be factored in, such as zero or low rate finance.

And don’t forget to ask for trimmings like a tank of fuel, car mats or discounts on any little add-ons you might fancy.

Do your homework though to ensure you are not buying a car on ‘run-out’, where production or importing ceased a while ago, or one with the wrong engine.

After all, with fuel prices continuing to be volatile, you don’t want to trade in your old gas guzzler for another just as bad.

Buy wisely though and your new vehicle could save on fuel, insurance, road tax and even depreciation, though cars will always devalue – unless they achieve classic status.

You can also afford to congratulate yourself for offloading something less efficient in favour of a modern and more eco-friendly model.



GO GREEN: Enjoy the space and luxury of a greener big car like the new Vauxhall Insignia ecoFLEX rather than downsize, but check the higher purchase cost against lower running costs – you might be better off with the conventional Insignia equivalent

On the other hand, review what you have to part-exchange; you might have lost tons on that big 4x4, but work out what it will cost you to run it for the next three years – it might be a lot less than the cost of chopping it for a new car.

Road tax might also favour downsizing to a more efficient motor – gas guzzling limos or 4x4s face £950 a year road tax from next year – but road tax is still a relatively small part of the motoring budget for most of us.

Many superminis sit in the lowest road tax band of £35 a year and though you might be

tempted by new tax-exempt diesel eco models, just check the price against a standard version of the same car.

The eco supermini might save you £105 in road tax over three years, but how much will you pay upfront for it? A lot more.

So, check out conventional equivalents of eco models and don’t dismiss petrol power; that fuel is still cheaper and makes sense for lower mileage users, while emission and consumption levels are closing the gap on heavier diesel equivalents.

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Government's scrapheap challenge has taken flight

BY STEVE LOADER

IT WAS a dodgy take-off, but the Government's £2,000-a-go incentive to scrap older cars in return for new ones is now flying.

Applications have boomed, prompting fears that the £300 million fund set aside by the Treasury could be exhausted before the official cut-off date next March.

There is some talk of a top-up donation, but if you are considering swapping your banger then get your new car order in now – firm orders will be honoured even if the delivery of the new car is delayed.

The donor car must have been registered before August 31, 1999 and your name must have been on the V5 'logbook' for 12 months before the date your new car order is placed.

For their part, carmakers have mostly embraced the deal after initial disappointment that they would be expected to contribute half of each '£2,000 Government Scrappage grant' and noting that the Treasury would claw back some of its money through VAT on each car sale.

Some brands have even put extra money on the table on top of their £1,000 per unit as well as extra specification and zero per cent finance – though this is no longer a big deal when interest rates are so low.



BUDGET BUYS: The Government-sponsored Scrappage scheme has made newly-arrived small hatchbacks like the exotic Alfa Romeo MiTo (above) and Nissan Pixo city car (left) attractive to budget-conscious motorists with a banger to trade in

On the other hand, consumers with savings will know they are receiving precious little return and it is tempting to seek a psychological boost from buying a new motor that should be cheaper to fuel and tax.

And don't be despondent if you're not in a position to take advantage of Scrappage; with the exception of city cars and superminis, you should get a hefty discount on most new cars in the current climate without needing a banger to scrap.

If you have been out of the car market for a while though, do your research. You will

have heard that diesel cars now outsell petrol, but that is not the full picture.

They cost more and the extra weight can be wearing and intrusive in the smaller cars most in demand now and you need to cover many miles to recover the extra upfront outlay.

Meanwhile, petrol is making a comeback with lighter, small capacity turbocharged engines able to deliver diesel pulling power and lower emissions.

You might also consider a hybrid, but these cost more and this must also be weighed against the mileage you intend to cover.

Essential guide to where you can save

■ JC Farley furniture store in Ramsgate is offering a free dishwasher with every kitchen order over £7,000

■ Living Out log cabins shop in Chestfield, Maidstone, is offering 10 per cent off everything

■ Furniture Island in Folkestone is offering an extra five per cent off all garden furniture

■ Secure Style windows doors and conservatories store in Herne Bay is offering 30 per cent off conservatories

■ Bourne Road Motor Dealer in Crayford is offering free car mats with all Mazda purchases new and used

■ Decorators Choice in Canterbury is offering 15 per cent off all paints

■ The Orchard Restaurant in Maidstone is offering Kids Eat for Free

■ Hazel Motors in Chatham is offering £20 off air conditioning

■ KOS is offering a Karcher pressure washer kit at £99.99 including free accessories, save £116 on RRP

■ KOS is offering Snuggly mattress topper from Slumberdown from only £69.99, save up to £40. Various sizes available

■ KOS is offering five Global knives set, scissors and block. Only £199.99, saving £150 off the RRP

■ KOS is offering big button digital cordless phone for just £24.99, save £20

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Drive smarter to save more

DOWNSIZING to a more fuel and tax efficient car should be just part of your master plan to cut the motoring budget.

The next stage involves smarter driving and journey planning and getting fitter by walking and cycling instead of using the car on short journeys – cold engines waste fuel and produce 60 per cent more emissions than warm ones.

Short car journeys also mean extra servicing and more engine wear.

SMALL SAVERS: Downsizing to modern cars like the latest generation Mazda3 or newly revised Renault Clio (right) can save money, but applying just a few driving tips will knock more pounds off your motoring bill



BY **STEVE LOADER**

If you must drive then follow these tips from the Institute of Advanced Motorists and RAC Foundation:

- Plan your route to save strain on car and driver. Take the most direct route – a sat nav can help – and go off peak if possible. Commuters should think about car sharing, Park and Ride bus schemes or other public transport.

- Have your vehicle serviced regularly. Neglected engines waste at least ten per cent more fuel and catalytic converters only clean emissions when properly maintained.

- Check tyres – under-inflated tyres need replacing more often (itself an environmental problem), are dangerous and waste fuel. Check pressures weekly.

- Obey speed limits to save money and stay legal. Feather the throttle as you reach cruising speed; 56mph uses 25 per cent less fuel than 70mph and a smoother driving style saves fuel.

- Accelerate briskly without

racing the engine – pulling away too fast uses up to 60 per cent more fuel. Intelligent gear changes at modest engine speeds can save up to 15 per cent in fuel.

- Reduce drag – remove roof racks and carriers when not in use and keep windows closed to avoid drag and wasted fuel. Remove unnecessary and heavy boot luggage and wide wheels and tyres that add rolling resistance. Air conditioning costs fuel too so try to use the fan and vents unassisted.

- Buy green fuel and use less. Look for low sulphur 'city' diesel or cleaner petrol (low sulphur/aromatics). Consider converting to LPG (liquid petroleum gas) – half the price of petrol and cleaner.

- Think ahead – there is no point rushing and then having to brake suddenly.

- Be a tank miser. Why fill the tank to the brim and burn more fuel carrying more weight than necessary?

- Stuck in traffic? Turn off the engine after two minutes to save fuel and emissions.

- For more eco driving tips see Julie Maddocks' online video report at: <http://www.yourkenttv.co.uk/community>.



Essential guide to where you can save

■ KOS is offering Personalised Weekender Bags for just £29.99

■ Maidstone Kia Motor Dealer in Maidstone is offering a free set of maps with any new car purchased before the end of September

■ Robins and Day Canterbury Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering MOTs for £29.99, and service and MOT from £119.99

■ Baileys Nissan Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering 15 per cent off MOTs

■ Caffyns Vauxhall Motor Dealer in Tunbridge Wells is offering half-price MOT with a service

■ Old Sawmills furniture store in Ashford is offering 20 per cent off all showroom items

■ Chart Hills Golf Club in Biddenden is offering 10 per cent discount on all room hire

■ Village Hotel in Maidstone is offering free loaded nachos worth £5.95 when you buy a bucket of six Mexican Sol beers from the Victory pub

■ Furniture Island in Folkestone is offering an extra 10 per cent off all sofas with this voucher

■ Linwood Electronics in Rainham is offering £100 off a Panasonic G10 series Plasma when you trade in your old TV

■ Northgate Alfa Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering air conditioning service for just £79.95+vat

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TAXING: Small city cars like the Peugeot 107 and Kia Picanto are in demand, helped by low running costs including a road tax bill of just £35 a year



Duty calls for more savings

BY **STEVE LOADER**

WHATEVER you do, don't swap your current car just to save a few pounds on road tax.

On the other hand, Government efforts to tax 'gas guzzlers' off the road can further ease the burden on your motoring budget if you

ROAD TAX BANDS

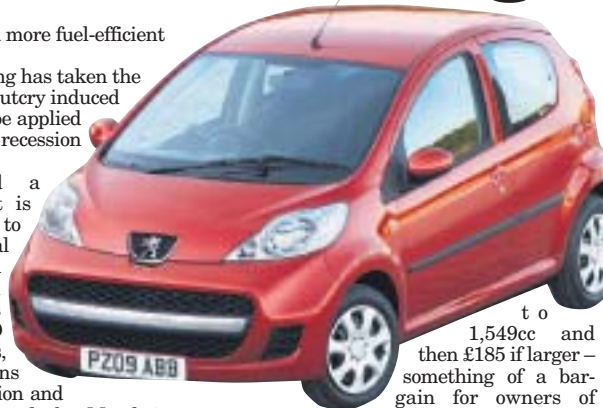
Band A (0-100g/km of CO₂) – £0
 Bands B and C (101-120g/km) – £35
 Bands D and E (121-140g/km) – £120
 Band F (141-150g/km) – £125
 Band G (151-160g/km) – £150
 Bands H and I (161-180g/km) – £175
 Bands J and K (181-225g/km) – £215
 Band L (226-255g/km) – £405
 Band M (255g/km plus) – £405

plan to downsize or go for a more fuel-efficient model.

Chancellor Alistair Darling has taken the pressure off a bit after an outcry induced by draconian rates due to be applied to larger cars, just as the recession clobbered the economy.

But Labour – and a Conservative government is unlikely to be different due to the world's environmental worries – has said it will continue to drive down vehicle sizes and emissions by using tough VED (Vehicle Excise Duty) rates, based on CO₂ emissions rather than fuel consumption and applying only to cars registered after March 1, 2001.

Inconsistent emissions data on older cars means these are taxed simply at £120/year up



to 1,549cc and then £185 if larger – something of a bargain for owners of older 'gas guzzlers' if they can bear higher fuel bills, opt for a £1,500-2,000 LPG (liquid petroleum gas) conversion or cover relatively few miles.

Essential guide to where you can save

■ Northgate Alfa Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering fixed-price servicing for cars three years plus. Gold Care Petrol or Diesel, £169

■ KOS is offering a Pulsar Kinetic Watch for only £49.99 (inc p&p) no battery required, saving over 50 per cent on RRP

■ Baileys Nissan Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering 15 per cent off all servicing

■ Homewood Orchard Garden Centre in Maidstone is offering 10 per cent off its garden furniture range

■ Bones on Beds in Herne Bay is offering 10 per cent off mattresses

■ Living Out log cabins store in Chestfield, Maidstone, is offering free installation on all standard range of log cabins

■ Motoline Renault Motor Dealer in Canterbury, Ashford and Maidstone is offering £99 service and free MOT for vehicles three years and older

■ Bradgate Park Luxury Holiday Homes in Margate is offering free Sunday lunch for two when you view the holiday homes

■ Secure Style, windows doors and conservatories in Herne Bay is offering 30 per cent off fascias

■ KOS is offering Sun Blaster Glare Shields from £14.99

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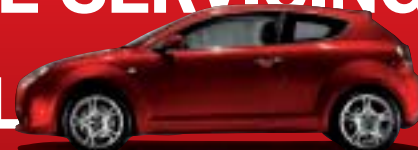
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- FIT NEW ENGINE OIL FILTER
- CHECK BRAKE PIPES AND LINES
- CHECK EXHAUST SYSTEM
- INSPECT TYRES AND SET PRESSURES
- REPORT ON TYRE TREAD DEPTH
- VISUALLY CHECK COOLING SYSTEM FOR LEAKS
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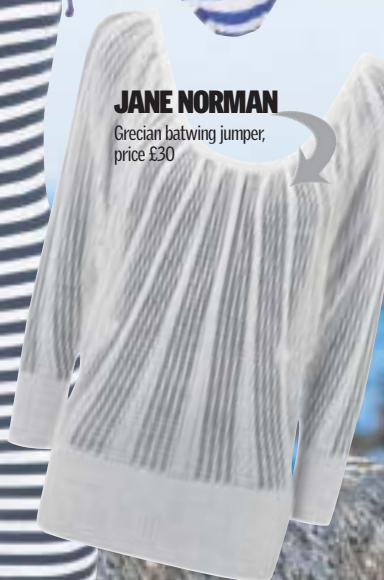
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For more details about ethically produced beauty ranges visit the website at www.fairtrade.org.uk/beauty, or visit the Boots store in Preston Street, Faversham.

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PUT expensive sunglasses in the shade by taking advantage of New Look's fantastic deal.

All ladies sunglasses have been reduced to just £5, while all children's shades are now priced at £4. From diamante studded and bright neon to oversized and classic aviators, there is something to brighten up everyone's summer.

To see the full range go to The Forum in Sittingbourne or St George's Street in Canterbury, or www.newlook.com

Learn about saving money at the ELC sale

THE Early Learning Centre has slashed prices across its wide range of products – offering up to 50 per cent off its stock.

Among the best-selling items are the Lift Off Rocket (18 months-four years) down from £35 to £28 and the Thomas the Tank Engine paddling pool (two to eight years), reduced from £40 to £30.

For more details visit the ELC store at Mothercare at the Wincheap Retail Park in Canterbury, or www.elc.co.uk.

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YOUR TV REVIEW

■ BY TOM BETTS

THE WIRE
BBC2, 11.20pm, Wednesday
From 1.20am, Sunday morning

CRITICS the world over put *The Wire* up there as one of the finest shows ever to hit screens.

Many say it is the best full stop.

It's a fine body of work, of that there can be no doubt.

Centering on the complex story of Baltimore's drug-addled streets, action focuses mainly on those peddling the narcotics and those charged with bringing law and order back to the housing projects.

It's a complex, intricate world, as the show exposes the hypocrisy and injustice of life for all people caught up in the tangled web.

As a counterpoint to this, each series delves a little deeper into one specific aspect of that world.

Series one focused on the streets, while the second looked at the city docks and its longshoreman as they set about importing and distributing the white stuff – often at odds with the very core of their blue collar union values.

Series four looks at the effect on the school system, while five examines the reporting of crime by newspaper the *Baltimore Sun*.

On BBC Two we are on series three as it tickles the sordid underbelly of politics in Baltimore.

It is a rich and fascinating look at the balances struck and compromises made as the bodies pile up amid brutal violence.

What's special is that this is probably a lot closer to what goes on than many of us would feel comfortable with.

The writers never feel the need to explain every plot nuance, nor do they scrimp on the realism.

Get it and come along for the ride is



HARD-HITTING: Crime series *The Wire* has received many plaudits for its realistic approach

the message and if you can't keep up then just don't bother.

At times touching and at others downright barbaric, it's a tour de force that never dips into anything below brilliant.

The Wire deserves its place among the all-time crime greats such as *The Sopranos* but, as ever, the TV schedulers have done their best to annoy viewers by hiding this away and showing it at different times and dates.

My advice, if you love TV, is to buy yourself the DVD box set, settle down on the sofa and let all five series wash over you in your own time.

If you want a quick taster dip your toe into the waters via BBC2 to help you decide if you do want to splash out £80-odd of your hard-earned on the whole collection.

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)
THE spiritual satisfaction you've been seeking could finally arrive. You've finally come to terms with the fact you need more personal time to pursue your favourite hobbies. If this means setting aside a secluded work area or getting up early to work on a project, so be it.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)
YOU could win a publishing contract, legal settlement or long-running dispute. This welcome turn of events lets you move on to bigger and better things. Take this opportunity to look for a job in keeping with your skill set. Good news about a relative or neighbour is music to your ears.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753

LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)
You're finally seeing the results of a rigorous health regimen. Take this opportunity to add some fashionable items to your wardrobe. Fortunately, a nice little earner will come your way. It will require lots of personal sacrifice, but the results will be worth it.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)
LEARNING a new skill will make it much easier to get a stable, well paid job. Take a course to learn accounting, construction or counselling skills. It may take a few months to get your certificate, but stick with it. A supportive relative may be willing to finance you.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)
A CHERISHED wish is about to be granted and it's all thanks to a supportive friend, business partner, or lover. Don't hesitate to accept their generosity. Nobody realises dreams alone. The strength of having faith in yourself plays an enormous part in your success.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763

GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)
A HEAVY flirtation could finally be consummated. If you're already in a relationship, your amour could get a raise, giving you more money for luxuries. Take this opportunity to buy something you will use on a daily basis. Funds could also become available will bring you long-term security.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754

VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)
MAKE an effort to finish a writing, painting, or film project. Alternatively, think about starting a family or moving home. Taking on a new responsibility will give you great joy. If you're looking for work, explore opportunities related to travel, education, or publishing.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)
MONEY from something you did a long time ago could finally arrive. Put the cash towards advancing your career in some way. Getting expert training will help you rise through the ranks of your preferred industry. You could be soon be recognised as a genuine creative talent.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)
YOUR spell in the spotlight comes to a successful finale. A boost in status could be coming your way. Nobody could accuse you of being the recipient of random good fortune; your victory is the result of hard work and discipline. Take your bows and then spend more time with friends.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752

CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)
AN engagement, wedding, or business deal will go off without a hitch and having someone by your side to stand up for you and support you will make your daily life much easier. If you aim to buy or sell a house or apartment get the help and advice of a professional or lawyer.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755

LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)
THINKING about buying or selling property or doing your place up? Whatever your plans might be they will re-establish a comforting security and help you plan more constructively for the future. If a relative plans on getting professional help for a problem give them your support.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)
THE results of a personal improvement project are impressive. Thanks to your hard work, you'll be able to expand your horizons in some material way. Travelling, writing, practicing law are all possibilities open to you in one way or another now. You'll never know unless you try.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

Calls cost 75p per minute. Service provided by g8wave London N7

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Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9

EASY

			6	9	7			8
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CRYPTIC CLUES

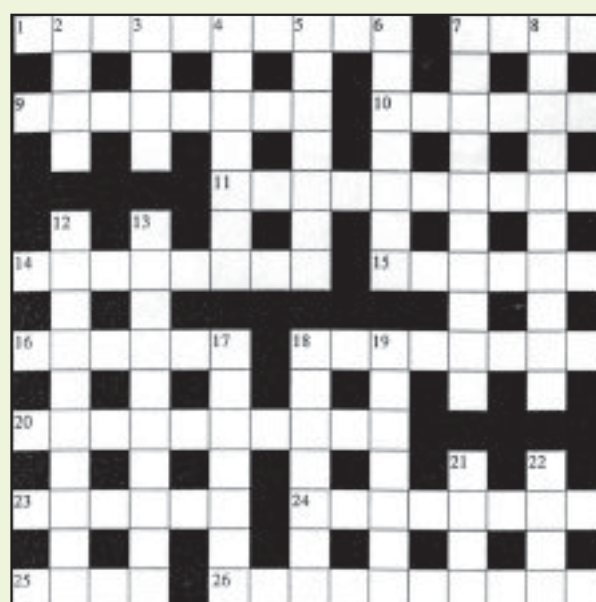
ACROSS

- 1 Start too soon in spring hunt eg confused (4,3,3)
7 Use one's teeth when about to cut (4)
9 A cod Anna prepared for low creature (8)
10 The merchant was booked in Italian city (6)
11 Fair and honest transaction by old-fashioned port (6,4)
14 Three-monthly perhaps (8)
15 Leg you injured whilst writing in praise of another (6)
16 Some most affable island (6)
18 Rescue rope found in one's palm (8)
20 Clever with cash that's a wise investment (5-5)
23 Prefer taste that's not left inside (6)
24 Supercilious horseman (8)
25 Describe devil trapping venerable saint (4)
26 Does it have a circle of members? (6,4)

DOWN

- 2 Skeletal part of incomplete lunar construction (4)
3 Choose to be a guitar player? (4)
4 Worker's lad personally involved (5-2)
5 Advancing slowly when it isn't steep (7)
6 Overturned vehicle, rear damaged, in northeastern Spain (7)
7 May two ladies have bell-shaped flower? (6,4)
8 Was substituting bartering (10)
12 Coppers Thomas manufactured built to a client's order (6-4)
13 Neutral area at railway terminus? (6,4)
17 Married frenzied lover (7)
18 Design etched on floor-covering first (7)
19 What bird will do at motorway intersection (7)
21 Man having cold drink first (4)
22 Some nutritious items are included in it (4)

SCRIBBLE HERE



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Leave from work (10)
7 US tramp (4)
9 ___ Juillet, Bastille Day (8)
10 Gaoler (anag.) (6)
11 Run-down car (4,6)
14 Felled (8)
15 Distend (6)
16 Part of speech (6)
18 Go across (8)
20 Steeplechase rider (4-6)
23 Encipher (6)
24 New (8)
25 Gloomy (4)
26 Rotting (10)

DOWN

- 2 Cuckoo-pint (4)
3 Tub (4)
4 Small moth (7)
5 Folded (7)
6 Readable (7)
7 Flying machine (10)
8 Sterility (10)
12 Chaparral cock (10)
13 Dogmatic (10)
17 Binge (5-2)
18 Escort (4,3)
19 Amenity (anag.) (7)
21 Record (4)
22 Beige (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No94

EASY

9	1	6	2	7	3	8	5	4
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HARD

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6	4	1	5	3	7	8	9	2
2	8	7	4	9	6	3	5	1
3	5	9	2	1	8	7	4	6

CRYPTIC SOLUTION No94

ACROSS: 1 Ice-skating 6 Swap 9 Voice
10 Oath 11 Star 13 Light as a feather 14
Exhuming 16 Idiocy 18 Paling 19 Queendom
22 Job satisfaction 24 Milk 25 Smug 26
Ionic 27 Soya 28 Brute force. DOWN: 1
Involve 2 Eying 3 Kleptomaniac 4 Thousand
5 Notify 7 Watchword 8 Portray 12
Handkerchief 15 Hillbilly 17 Bunfight 18
Pyjamas 20 Manacle 21 Zimmer 23 Inner.

QUICK SOLUTION No95

Disc 22 Fawn.
17 Booze-up 18 Take out 19 Anytime 21
Barrenness 12 Roadrunner 13 Helicopter 8
Tortrix 5 Creased 6 Legible 7 Helicopter 8
Putrescent. DOWN: 2 Arum 3 Bath 4
Jockey 23 Encode 24 Original 25 Jump-
Expand 16 Adverb 18 Traveller 20 Jump-
10 Galore 11 Rust bucket 14 Poleaxed 15
ACROSS: 1 Sabbath 7 Hobo 9 Quatorze

Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website

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It's downhill (nearly) all the way

■ BY SARAH O'MEARA

A 300-MILE bicycle ride in the searing summer heat of southern France, with only a bottle of Fanta and a banana for fuel, is few people's idea of a civilised holiday.

Yet touring the Perigieux prefecture of France's Dordogne region for seven days, we would change hotel every couple of nights, our luggage following safely behind in a van.

Heaving our bags into his van, our Headwater rep made it clear that we could stop worrying about unforeseen circumstances. For the next seven days, the only variable was the weather.

The Dordogne Gastronomic Cycling trip has been running for 10 years and pedalled into perfection.

Our detailed itinerary gave a choice of two different routes each day. Depending on our energy levels, and how much fried duck and red wine we'd had the night before, we would cycle anything from 12 to 25 miles per day.

Our rep, sweetly, gave us a real ordnance survey map, but in reality, comprehensive printed instructions with diagrams from Headwater were far too user-friendly to resist.

This part of France is ideal for those new to cycling holidays.

The routes are quiet and made up almost entirely of back roads, well-maintained farm tracks and cycle paths.

There are also plenty of hills of varying difficulties. Once I'd discovered the joy of the cycling up a hill, getting a hit of endorphins and then whooping my way down the other side, there was no stopping me.

After a few days, I found myself looking forward to steep inclines.



REWARD: Pedalling up a steep hill is worth it when a view like this is waiting for you at the top

Free from transport restraints, high on exercise and blessed with perfect weather, we really did feel as though we'd been tapped with the holiday fairy's wand.

In fact, our only real responsibility was to find the hotel marked in the itinerary every other evening. And that wasn't difficult.

Cycling for four hours every day also meant that we felt guiltless about eating plenty of food. We'd happily consume a large dish of pan-fried duck with olives from a roadside restaurant at lunch, before sitting down to four courses in the evening just hours later.

When we needed a break from our saddles, there was usually something a little bit special on the horizon. As well as the countless chateaux, and wonderful restaurants, this area is also the home of Cro-Magnon man, one of the earliest recorded humans.

The site of Lascaux, close to the delightful town of Montignac, is where 17,000-year-old cave paintings were discovered almost 70 years ago. Unfortunately for tourists, these prehistoric images are now carefully protected from carbon-dioxide damage, and only copies are on public display.

FACT FILE: FRANCE

Time difference	+One hour
Capital	Paris
Climate	Temperate
Population	62.5 million
Currency	£1 = 1.4 Euros
Religion	Catholic
Language	French

Travel details

Sarah O'Meara was a guest of Headwater Holidays on a Dordogne Gastronomic Cycling Tour, packages available from May to September from £1,098 to £1,227 per person (child £699 all season) for self-drivers who go by Eurotunnel. Prices for air-rail packages (based on Gatwick-Toulouse by BA) range from £1,199 to £1,299 (child £849 all season).

Tour only prices: £1,049 to £1,179 (child £679).

Singles: add £25 per night

Package includes half-board accommodation, bike hire, local transfers, maps and route notes, bag transport, 24-hour emergency support.

Headwater reservations: 01606 720 033 and www.headwater.com.



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PROPERTY NEWS

Couples forced to stay together by recession

DESPITE the start of an economic recovery, the recession is still making life hard for couples wanting to move on after divorce, according to family lawyers.

Resolution, which represents 75 family lawyers in Kent, says continuing problems in the housing market are preventing divorcing couples from moving to separate accommodation.

Family lawyer Daniel Bennett, of East Kent Resolution, said: "Selling the family home is often an important step for couples and their families making the transition from one home to two after divorce."

"But with limited mortgage deals, the increase in unemployment, and one in ten homeowners now in negative equity, selling up or moving on is easier said than done for many couples."

To help people in this situation, Resolution is today launching a series of online hints and tips for couples "living apart together" ahead of a national conference on family law in London.

These include trying to agree some ground rules, getting short breaks from one another and playing fair in regard to new partners or relationships.

But most importantly, don't lose heart, no recession lasts forever.

Repossession predictions are not looking so bad

GOOD news has come to those who are struggling to meet their mortgage payments following an analysis of the market by experts in lending.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders has cut its repossession forecast as experts say lower interest rates and Government initiatives were helping people stay in their homes.

The group has revised its prediction for repossessions during 2009 to 65,000 from a total of 75,000. But the figure is still the highest for 17 years and nearly two-thirds higher than the 40,000 people who lost their homes in 2008.

The group said rising unemployment would lead to an estimated 360,000 people falling into mortgage arrears of at least 2.5 per cent of their outstanding debt during 2009. Although its revised forecast is 15 per cent lower than the previous one, the figure still represents a doubling in the 182,600 of homeowners at this level at the end of last year.

Analysts said record low interest rates were making it easier for households who lost their incomes to keep up with their mortgage, while they also meant people built up arrears more slowly.



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Constructive approach to affordable housing

AS PART of the Government's Building Britain's Future plans, Housing Minister John Healey has announced that the construction of thousands of extra homes will begin in a matter of months.

The news comes after a £1.5 billion pound housing investment was revealed by the Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

The Housing Pledge places councils centre-stage and involves building more homes more quickly. It is also aimed at creating thousands of jobs in the construction industry.

Changes to the rules for allocating housing will also give councils a bigger role in meeting the needs of people in their area. The pledge also includes commitments to improve access to social housing by providing tenants and prospective tenants with more choice over the properties available, and commitments to clamp down on those cheating the system, so that more properties are available for those who play by the rules.

The cash boost will deliver an additional

■ BY NICK AMES

20,000 new, affordable, energy efficient homes over the next two years – with a further 10,000 delivered through the private sector.

Councils and housing associations will both have a key role in delivery of the new affordable homes. This money will also extend the programme to get stalled housing projects back on track and prepare public sector land for construction of new homes as well as provide up to 45,000 new jobs in the construction and related industries.

The announcement came the day before Mr Healey outlined proposals to allow councils to keep all the proceeds from their own council house sales, as well as their rents.

Mr Healey said: "The Prime Minister's housing pledge is a huge boost to efforts to build the homes the country needs now and in the future. This investment will help fast track construction and I want to see work starting on site within the next few months."

"Alongside the significant increase in housing stock we will also work with councils to

ensure the social housing system is responsive to local priorities and preferences.

"Together, these announcements signal my intention to get local authorities involved in delivering the housing their area needs."

"Councils haven't built significant numbers of housing for a long time, but with this extra cash and an overhaul of the council house funding system I am giving councils the green light to start building more homes in their area."

"And we are putting our money where our mouth is to fund new Housing Association developments, get mothballed housing projects back on track, and free up public land for more affordable homes."

"In these tough economic times this is also a much needed shot in the arm for the construction industry creating 45,000 new jobs in Britain that will be key to the country making the most of the recovery over the next few years."

"When people see these new homes being built in their communities they need to believe that they or people they know have a fair shot at living in them."

Developer builds bridges with mouse community

HOUSEBUILDER Ward Homes is protecting dormice at its development in Boughton Monchelsea by helping them to safely cross the road.

The dormice were discovered before construction of The Woodlands, a development of one and two-bedroom apartments and three-bedroom houses located just off Brishing Lane. Ward Homes has installed a specially constructed bridge, suspended between two telegraph poles, which allows the dormice to cross the road without danger.

Together with the site's ecological contractor, Keystone Environmental, Ward Homes has installed a galvanised mesh cylinder, the most ecological material to use for this construction.

The bridge has been made more attractive to the dormice by being filled with a variety of native climbing plant species, such as honeysuckle. The plants are also encouraged to grow up and along the bridge as a habitat for the mice and to enhance the structure. There is also a large funnel at each end of the bridge to help them find the entrance.

In addition to the bridge, Ward Homes has also planted a hedge along Brishing Lane to further develop the dormice habitat.

Tim Nabbs, sales director for Ward Homes said: "We feel it is of paramount importance to protect and preserve wildlife wherever we develop. Habitat fragmentation is a particular problem for dormice because of their reluctance to cross sections of open ground, so the bridge really is a tremendous benefit for them. It mimics tunnels found in their natural setting and is a safe way for them to travel."

"We choose the locations for all our developments with considerable care and are fully committed to enhancing the surroundings, making the most of natural features, such as mature trees and hedgerows."

"Our planners work closely with councils and the local community to identify sustainable solutions and our homes are consistently built on brownfield sites."

The Woodlands is a development just five miles from Maidstone.

HomeBuy Direct, the Government's scheme to help people move onto and up the property ladder, is available on selected properties at The Woodlands. It gives homebuyers the chance to move in for only 70 per cent of the purchase price.

Ward Homes will match the Government's



SKYWAY: A tunnel filled with climbing plants has been suspended between telegraph poles for the dormice

funding pound for pound in the new venture to provide an equity loan to the homebuyer of up to 30 per cent. The buyer finances the remaining 70 per cent either through a mortgage, a deposit or a combination of the two.

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Buckthorne Road £265,000

Five bedrooms, two receptions, three en-suites, tandem garage and off road parking.

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Wards Hill Road £240,000

Three Bed Detached House. 2 Receptions. D. Glazing/Gas Fired Central Heating.

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Amber Rise OIEO £230,000

Four bed detached family home, lounge/diner, kitchen/breakfast room, garage.

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Fallowfield OIEO £200,000

3/4 bed link detached. Two receptions. Separate cloakroom and family bathroom.

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High Street OIEO £185,000

Three bed semi detached. 38' lounge/dining rm/study. Garage & off road parking.

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Premier Way £179,995

Three Bed End of Terrace, En-suite Shower Room, D. Glazing, Central Heating, Garage.

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Cherryfields OIEO £175,000

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Volante Drive £174,995

Three bed link detached house. Open plan living. Upstairs bathrm. Garage. Parking.

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Minster Road Offers Over £165,000

Three bed semi detached house. Approx. 80' rear garden. Off road parking, garage.

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Sea View Gardens OIEO £160,000

Investment Opportunity. 3 Bed Light Construction Bungalow with Building Plot.

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Highfield Road OIEO £150,000

Three Bed Detached Bungalow. Recently Modernised. Minster Location. No Chain.

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Chalk Road OIEO £150,000

Three bed detached, D. glazing, Garage and driveway parking, Viewing essential.

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Highfield Road Guide Price £150,000

Detached 2 Bed Bungalow. Shower Rm & Separate wc. Conservatory.

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Bayford Road £149,950

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Chalkwell Road OIEO £140,000

Four bed terrace house, two receptions, kitchen/breakfast room, 60' rear garden.

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Meyrick Road OIEO £135,000

Four bed terraced house. Two receptions. D. glazing/Gas Central Heating. No Chain.

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Salisbury Close Asking Price £127,500

Two bed semi detached. 22' lounge/diner. UPVC d. glazing, central heating, gardens.

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Melody Close OIEO £100,000

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Sea View Gardens £89,995

Two Bedroom Terrace House. Central Heating. Off Road Parking. No Chain.

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Reams Way £87,500

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Faversham | £370,000

- Beautifully presented 4/5 bed apartment
- Many period features, courtyard garden
- Town centre location with parking to rear

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Throwley Forstal | Price Range: £360,000 - £380,000

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- Rear garden, garage, no chain

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Sittingbourne | Price Range £220,000 - £250,000

- 4 Bedroom Detached Family Home
- 2 Separate Reception Rooms,
- Garage & Driveway, Popular Development

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Faversham | £212,000

- Unique, light and spacious 2 bedroom apartment
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- Basement storage, parking, communal gardens

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* Source: 113 offices across the southeast, Apr-May 2009 compared to Apr-May 2008



Kemsley Price Range £210,000 - £235,000

- 4 Double Bed Detached Family Home
- 2 En-Suites, Two Reception Rooms
- Garage & Driveway, Popular Location

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Halfway Price Range £180,000 - £210,000

- 2 Bedrooms, Bathroom and Cloakroom
- Parking For Four Vehicles
- Rear Garden Approx 70' x 60' x 100'

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Leysdown Price Range £135,000 - £150,000

- 2 Bedrooms, 18' Lounge
- Double Glazed Conservatory
- Approx. 40' Rear Garden

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Minster On Sea Price Range £125,000 - £150,000

- 2 Bed, 12'1 x 8'10 D Conservatory
- 11'2 x 9'10 Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- One Allocated Parking Space

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Sittingbourne Price Range £90,000 - £105,000

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- 60' Garden, Central Location
- Ideal First Purchase

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Countrywide

Borden



£79,950

No Chain. One bedroom flat in Borden village. Parking. First floor accommodation.

Newington



£99,950

No chain. Convenient access to railway station and local shops. This property requires some DIY improvement.

Newington



£115,000

Two bedroom cottage, porch, lounge, inner lobby, kitchen/diner, bathroom, loft room. No Chain.

Sittingbourne



£115,000

Two bed house. Double glazing and central heating. Convenient access to the A2 and Sittingbourne town centre.

Sittingbourne



£124,995

Chain Free! Three bedroom house with lounge, kitchen/dining room, central heating, double glazing and driveway.

Sittingbourne



£136,995

Three bed Victorian house. Convenient to town centre and local store. Central heating & mostly double glazed.

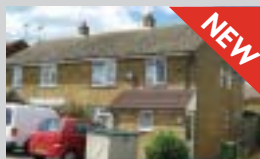
Sittingbourne



£151,000

Extremely good order. Three bed semi detached house with conservatory and drive. Convenient access to A249.

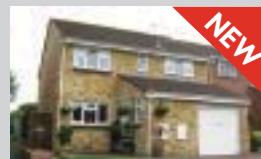
Sittingbourne



£174,995

Extended four bed semi with lounge and dining room, utility & shower room, gas central heating and double glazing.

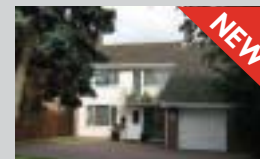
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WOMEN seeking men

MATCH OF THE DAY!

Fun-to-be-with, blonde female, 25, 5ft2, a woman who loves football! Enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her soulmate. Box 446494 ☺

IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU BABY

Caring and honest lady, 25, blue eyes, blonde hair, looking for a sweet, caring and respectful non-smoking man, 25-35, for love, friendship and LTR. Box 879522 ☺

NOT YOUR BROWN-EYED GIRL, BUT...

Blue-eyed brunette, 27, 5ft1, loves films, walking, darts, pool, singing, me time! Looking for honest guy with GSOH, to get to know. Box 880105 ☺

GETTING TO KNOW YOU...

Sociable girl, 28, loves pubs, social drinks, meeting new people & more, seeks similar male, 58-62, for a lasting relationship. Box 448756 ☺

GIVE AND TAKE IN LOVE

Loving loyal female, 30, blue eyes, brown hair, seeking LTR with male 30-35, 6ft+, no baggage, in the Maidstone area. Box 448471 ☺

YOURS AND YOURS ONLY!

Attractive, down-to-earth British-Indian single mum, 29, WLMT white British male, 29-34, no ties, for long-term relationship. Box 883431 ☺

IN THE COUNTRY

Are you the one? I'm 33, single, 5ft2, pure country lass from farming background, seeking my lovely country man to make me forever happy. Box 882265 ☺

HAPPY DAYS!

Attractive, fun-loving female, 31, 5'4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, WLMT intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 308734 ☺

SOUND GOOD?

Hello I'm 35, kind, caring and non-smoking, enjoy cooking, cinema, music, dining in and out, looking for that special someone to enjoy a relationship with. Box 447595 ☺

FEAST YOUR EYES ON ME...

Hello I'm Andrea, petite 5ft3, shoulder length curly hair, enjoys eating out, the cinema and I'm looking for friendship and possible long term relationship. Box 453039 ☺

SEALED WITH A KISS

Petite lady, 36, long hair, blue eyes, single mum, enjoys holidays, wine and dining, laughing, seeks loyal, loving man for friendship and more. Box 453079 ☺

STARRY NIGHTS

Hello I'm Sarah, single mum from Kent, brown hair enjoy swimming nights! not looking for a caring man to share the best thing in life. Box 878378 ☺

HISTORIC MEETING?

Mum of three, 36, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male 35-40, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 440693 ☺

GALLOP AHEAD!

Maidstone-based woman, 36, 5ft5, slim build, blue eyes, I'm caring, honest and have 4 children, enjoys drives and horse riding, and WLMT honest, reliable man. Box 453131 ☺

UNDERSTAND ME

Open, honest straight girl, 37, 5'6", slim, pale and cute, own home, searching for sensual, strong, younger man, to help me relax and enjoy life. Box 451524 ☺

WISHFULLY YOURS

Loving female, 37, 5ft2, brown hair, slim build, looking for honest, caring male with GSOH, for friendship, leading to more. Ashford. Box 449915 ☺

CALL ME

Happy but shy girl of 37, loves all the normal things in life, seeks a mature guy, hoping for something lasting and meaningful. Bexhill-on-Sea. Box 452424 ☺

LOVE TO LOVE YOU

Lovely female, 36, 5ft4, medium/large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102 ☺

SEIZE THE DAY

Loving female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666 ☺

MEND A BROKEN HEART

Single mum, 37, fun-loving, been hurt in past, looking for nice, genuine guy for hopeful happiness - no time wasters! Box 908053 ☺

BLONDE AMBITION

Bubbly, cuddly, blonde single mum, 39, 5ft6, likes cars, reading, pubs, cosy nights in, having a laugh, looking for that right male for LTR. Box 905614 ☺

BELLA ISABEL

Lovely, fun and caring brunette, 42, recently divorced, intelligent, hard working, fun-loving, WLMT a gent to socialise with. Box 878250 ☺

COSY TIMES TOGETHER

Fun-loving female, 42, looking for someone who can make me laugh and enjoys country walks, films, travelling and a nice evening cuddled up. Box 881545 ☺

PROFESSIONAL LADY

Fun bubbly sexy black female, 42, outgoing, positive, fun-loving, seeks charming male to have fun and enjoy life with. Box 451744 ☺

YOU NEVER KNOW

Kind, loving and caring woman, 43, 5ft5, round but cuddly! Just looking for someone to share my life with...how about you? St. Leonards-on-Sea. Box 446457 ☺

LET'S CLICK

WLMT a nice guy with a similar nature; I'm an outgoing woman, 42, with brown hair and green eyes. Tell me about you? Box 446847 ☺

GENUINE REPLIES ONLY

Bubbly female, 44, brunette, n/s, medium/large build, enjoys singing and theatre. Would love to meet a decent fun-loving guy, similar age, pref non-smoker for LTR. Box 445955 ☺

LOOKING FOR LTR

Single mum, petite, 44, brown hair/eyes, looking to share my life with a nice man, a Russian man would be great! I like cinema, pubs, music. Box 451373 ☺

ALONG THE SHORE

Recently divorced woman, 43, 5ft3, slim, hard-working, fun-loving, likes life, looking for a really nice and trustworthy guy for a relationship. Hastings Box 451469 ☺

A SOUL MATE

Black Christian girl, 39, likes country music, loving, considerate, kind and caring, looking for a like-minded man & more. Box 152862 ☺

ENTHUSIASM ENCOURAGED!

Lovely pretty big-busted lady, 39, medium build, 5ft5, lots of energy! likes the gym, reading, new experiences! seeking a nice man for potential exciting relationship! Box 446724 ☺

THE WIT TO WOO!

Kent female, 40, 5'7", dark eyes, GSOH, no ties, likes cosy nights in, socialising, country pubs, cinema, seeks loyal, caring male, for friendship & more. Box 152862 ☺

JOINED AT THE HIP

Sociable petite girl with great SOH, 40, blonde, sociable, love football! Looking for fun guy with great SOH for inseparable partnership. Box 880434 ☺

YOUNG-AT-HEART

Attractive 38yr old female, dark brown hair, blue eyes, curvy physique, likes days out, music, concerts, cinema, walking, cycling, seeks loving, fun male, for friendship/relationship. Box 901893 ☺

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A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE

Lovely, glossy brunette, 39yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out, WLMT a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 442551 ☺

A HEART FULL OF LOVE

Nice looking, genuine 41yr old mixed race female, likes cinema, walks, eating out, bowling, WLMT a genuine good natured white male, GSOH, for fun filled friendship/relationship. Box 450890 ☺

A FAIRY TALE ENDING

Radiant, warm, witty, intelligent, attractive lady, 44, 5'6", love music, travel, restaurants, the arts, theatre, WLMT like-minded gent, 38-50 who's fun, cultured, solvent and kind. Box 430403 ☺

COULD IT BE YOU?

Hi I'm 44, slim, 5ft8, a redhead, love nights out, socialising, looking for friendship initially and hopefully more later on. Box 889800 ☺

YOUNG AT HEART

Young 46, fun-loving but also mature, serious female, looking for someone fit, handsome, intelligent and full of fun. Box 884113 ☺

FANCY A DRINK?

Hi, I'm June, 47, bubbly, loving, looking for a trustworthy guy for a relationship, I enjoy walks, car-boots, travelling and sharing a bottle of red. Box 878294 ☺

2'S COMPANY

Seeking gent, 48-50ish. I'm a divorced woman, in Ryde, 47, work in nursing, and WLMT someone loving and faithful, likes meals out, theatre, arts, walks. Box 452503 ☺

SOUND GOOD?

Hi I'm Lynne 46, 5ft4, dark hair/eyes, love reading/writing, going out, astrology, cars, seeking honest, caring, outgoing guy to enjoy music, fun, friendship and more! Box 449186 ☺

ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME?

Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and TLC. Seaford. Box 444366 ☺

HELP ME OPEN UP

Easygoing lady, 46, dark brown hair/blue eyes, medium build, likes life, socialising, the seaside, walks, drinks, WLMT male to share a bottle of wine with. Box 444585 ☺

SAY YES!

Funny lady, 48, looking for tattooed hippy/biker/metal type to relieve the boredom, must enjoy cat cuddling and have own chocolate because I never share! Box 878407 ☺

LOOK THIS WAY!

Slim single mum, 48, 5ft5, light brown hair, works full time, friendly and easy-going, WLMT lots of new friends, hopefully someone special. Box 878456 ☺

STIMULATING COMPANY

Bubbly, caring, single mum, 46, WLMT nice male, for good conversations, company, and maybe more. Box 396829 ☺

HERE AND NOW

Outgoing lady, 50, enjoys walks along the beach, nights out and in with a quiet bottle of wine, seeks man to love forever. Box 449524 ☺

LOVELY BUBBLY

Short 51yr old professional lady, likes history, films and reading, seeking a genuine gent, 45-58, with gosh to enjoy evenings out, stimulating conversations and fun. Box 452311 ☺

THIS STATE OF INDEPENDENCE

Hard-working female, 41, 5'4", bubbly, independent woman, love to laugh, socialising with friends, looking for independent man who values TLC. Box 414156 ☺

MISS THIS MISS OUT

Radiant, warm, witty, intelligent, attractive lady, 44, 5'6", love music, travel, restaurants, the arts, theatre, WLMT like-minded gent, 38-50 who's fun, cultured, solvent and kind. Box 430403 ☺

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JUST IMAGINE

Petite, brunette, bubbly, friendly, easygoing single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, WLMT genuine male, to see where life takes us! Box 893562 ☺

CARING & PROFESSIONAL

Female 49, 5ft4, long hair, slim build, likes eating out, the beach, travel, seeks a friendly chap, 48-55. Hastings. Box 417101 ☺

HIT THE JACKPOT

Good-looking female, 50, looking for a kind, reliable and honest man, must be a moderate drinker, for companionship and romance. Box 878216 ☺

SHARE LIFE

Caring woman of 52, normal, down-to-earth, open minded and loves to give, looking for an understanding and caring male to enjoy films, walks and more. Box 452463 ☺

YOU DON'T KNOW UNTIL YOU CALL...

Young-looking, hard-working 53yr old living in East Sussex. I am a happy, caring person with a good sense of humour. Non-smoker. Heathfield. Box 883410 ☺

COMPANIONSHIP, LAUGHTER, HAPPILY MORE

Gosh & cuddly, outgoing, friendly, honest female, 53, 5ft7, larger build, fair hair, likes socialising, country walks, theatre, cinema, music, swimming, WLMT similar loving male. Box 443542 ☺

BRAINS & HAVE THE LOOKS!

Professional, attractive female, 54, enjoys the countryside, gardening, keeping fit, reading and live music, looking to meet an attractive and intelligent man for a relationship. Box 448863 ☺

LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS!

Smart petite lady, 55, 5ft4, tall, blonde hair, green eyes, likes restaurants, theatre, cinema, travel abroad; seeking happy guy with similar interests. Box 448795 ☺

DREAMS OF YOU

Genuine, caring lady, late 50s, slim & young looking, looking for a loyal, considerate, N/S male for long term relationship. Box 446586 ☺

SOMETHING NEW

Caring female with GSOH, 58, 5ft2, brown hair/eyes, likes beach walks, theatre, holidays and music; WLMT male with GSOH, genuine, for friendship, maybe more. Eastbourne. Box 447662 ☺

BEING WITH YOU

Hi I'm Jenny, 61yr old widow, enjoys pub meals, countryside, the beach, cinema, seeks loving male for friendship and more. Box 453104 ☺

ONLY LOVE

Classy, intelligent, happy, slim, attractive, fit and active lady, 60, gosh, enjoys travel, gardening etc, looking for that special friend to share life with. Box 883791 ☺

NEVER TOO LATE

Hello, I'm Betty, 62, cuddly widow, 5ft5, brown hair/brown eyes, gosh and love life, seeking a like-minded gent for companionship and more. Box 452329 ☺

LOVING AND GENUINE

Female, early 60s, tall, slim, modern, young thinking & very adaptable to socialise with, go out and have some fun, then see what happens. Ashford area. Box 880564 ☺

ATTRACTIVE, BUBBLY LADY

5ft6, blonde, size 12 enjoys good food/wine, theatre, countryside, holidays, seeking a sincere, genuine female, for friendship first, possibly relationship. Box 414143 ☺

HOMELY & FUN

Hello there, I'm looking for a kind, gentle partner, a homely woman, with GSOH. I'm female, 56, and enjoy cinema, reading, antiques, gardening, music. Eastbourne. Box 451409 ☺

REPLY to an ad, call:

0905 211 0651
(Calls cost £1.20/min; contact your service provider for details)

REPLY by Text

You can choose to text the member's 6-digit box number followed by a space, then your message (max of 160 characters) and send to **82250** e.g. 654321 Hi my name is... Standard network rates apply to send messages. Successfully forwarded messages cost £1.50 per message.

WOMEN seeking women

FUN AND MAYBE MORE

Passionate female, 37, new to town, WLMT passionate, genuine companions to socialise with, go out and have some fun, then see what happens. Ashford area. Box 880564 ☺

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Classy, intelligent, happy, slim, attractive, fit and active lady, 60, gosh, enjoys travel, gardening etc, looking for that special friend to share life with. Box 883791 ☺

NEVER TOO LATE

MOTORS NEWS



Ford dealers make most of Scrappage scheme

FORD'S car business is on the scrap heap, with UK dealers taking an amazing 300 orders daily under the Government-sponsored Scrappage scheme.

Buyers get at least £2,000 back if they consign their 10 or more-year-old banger to the crusher in return for buying a new car.

Ford's big seller is the Fiesta, from £8,595 under the scheme with the Ka city car next (pictured right), from £6,595.

Ford says the scheme is also delivering 'conquests' to its dealers; only half of cars surrendered are Fords.



Nissan building on scrap deal to boost profits

NISSAN has picked up the Scrappage ball and run with it by offering a £2,000 minimum trade-in on 8-10-year-old cars as well as 10-year-old bangers targeted by the Government.

And this deal has been extended until September 30, 2009 for customers buying models built at Nissan's Sunderland plant – the Qashqai (pictured left), Note and Micra (right) – so it also benefits recession-hit 'UK PLC' directly.

Under either scheme, a new car can cost as little as £5,995, in the case of the Micra supermini.



Fiat lift lid off remake of classic 50s open top

FIAT has paid further homage to its original 1950s 500 Nuovo by launching a chic convertible version of the current and retro-styled 'Cinquecento'.

And the UK – a major market for open tops – is the world's first to get the new Fiat 500C, a recycling of the 1957 fabric roof Fiat 500.

While using the original's roll-top canvas roof format though, the newcomer is a thoroughly modern interpretation, but commands a £3,000 premium over its hatchback sister, with prices from £11,300 (1.2 Pop 500C).



SOUND KOREA MOVE: The new Hyundai i20 may not match the excellent Ford Fiesta but it is superb value for money and comes with the usual five-year warranty

Supermini highlights advances by Hyundai

ROAD TEST HYUNDAI i20

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

full complement of airbags, air con and glove box cooler, electric front windows plus fully adjustable wheel and driver's seat – all from £8,195.

Under the Government sponsored Scrappage scheme for owners of cars ten or more years old; qualifying i20 buyers can also save some £3,000 by trading in a banger.

But they may miss the 'wow' factor of buying a more modern motor for the i20's chassis balances comfort and sporty, yet falls short of the driver feedback of sophisticated rivals like the Fiesta.

And the interior is robust with nice touches, but even lively upholstery in our mid-range Comfort trim test car failed to lift a slightly dour atmosphere, though you do get a USB link for your MP3 player/iPod at this level.

Of the three engine options, discount the 75bhp 1.4-litre diesel tested here (from £10,145); the front wheels can scramble under initial acceleration in wet conditions, yet it runs out of puff later and generally feels heavy and lumpy in such a small car.

It also adds £1,000 to the price of the equivalent 99bhp 1.4-litre petrol, while the even cheaper (by £500) 77bhp 1.2 petrol is peppy, economical and easily the best drive.



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YEAR	REG	MODEL	ENGINE	DOORS	COLOUR	MILEAGE	£	YEAR	REG	MODEL	ENGINE	DOORS	COLOUR	MILEAGE	£	
CORSA								COMPANY OWNED VEHICLES - CARS								
05	05	Corsa Design	14	5	Star silver	29300	5,395	08	58	Agila Design	12	5	Steel silver		8,995	
07	07	New Corsa Sxi	14	3	Flame red	30750	7,995	08	58	Agila Design	12	5	Moroccan blue		8995	
08	08	New Corsa Breeze CDTi	1.3D	3	Star silver	5,770	8,895	08	58	Agila Club A/c CDTi	1.3D	5	Steel silver		9995	
08	58	New Corsa Sxi CDTi	1.3D	3	Star silver	4,200	9,995	08	58	Agila Club	12	5	Moroccan blue		8595	
08	58	New Corsa Sxi A/c	1.2	3	Silver lightening	3,675	9,295	08	58	Agila Club A/c	12	5	Steel Silver		8795	
08	58	New Corsa Club CDTi	1.3D	5	Star silver	3,325	9,995	08	58	Corsa Sxi A/c	14	5	Silver lightening		9695	
08	58	New Corsa Breeze CDTi	1.3D	3	Star silver	4,380	9,995	08	58	Corsa Club Auto	14	5	Ultra blue		9995	
08	58	New Corsa Design CDTi	1.3D	3	Metro blue	6,100	9,995	08	58	Corsa Design	12	3	Black sapphire		9245	
ASTRA								08	58	Vectra Exclusiv CDTi (150ps)19D	5		Panacotta		10995	
05	55	Astra Life Estate CDTi	1.3	5	Ultra blue	37750	5,995	08	58	Vectra Exclusive CDTi (150ps)19D	5		Black sapphire		10995	
06	06	Astra Sxi Sports hatch	1.6	3	Rubens red	22021	8,195	COMMERCIAL VEHICLES - COMPANY OWNED								
06	06	Astra Design Estate	1.6	5	Pannacotta	34950	7,195	08	58	Combo CDTi	1.7D	5	White		7995	
06	06	Astra Club	1.4	5	Silver lightening	37500	6,995	08	08	Vivaro SWB CDTi	2.0D	5	White		9995	
06	56	Astra Elite CDTi	1.9	5	Ultra blue	37950	8,995	08	58	Vivaro SWB CDTi	2.0D	5	Ink Blue		11995	
06	56	Astra Sxi	1.6	5	Star silver	39340	7,495	COMMERCIAL VEHICLES								
07	06	Astra Club	1.4	5	Silver lightening	37180	6,995	08	08	Corsavan Sportive, CDTi	1.3CDTi	3	Star silver	10,550	7,995	6,995
07	07	Astra Design Sports hatch	1.6	3	Power red	26340	8,995	08	08	Astravan Club Plylined	1.7CDTi		White	7,000	8,995	7,995
07	57	Astra Club CDTi Est	1.3D	5	Panacotta	8,275	8,995	07	07	Combo Crew van, PAS	1.3CDTi		White	8,700	7,995	7,495
08	08	Astra Sxi	1.6	5	Black sapphire	15,890	9,995	08	08	Combo Air con	1.3CDTi		Silver	1,218	7,995	6,995
08	08	Astra Breeze Sports hatch	1.4	3	Star silver	2,110	9,495	08	08	Combo Plylined, Side Door	1.3CDTi		White	19,500	6,995	5,995
08	58	Astra Sxi	1.6	5	Green spirit	3,725	11,495	08	08	Combo Ply lined, Side Door	1.3CDTi		White	4,250	7,995	6,795
08	58	Astra Club CDTi Estate	1.7D	5	Technical grey	14,450	10,995	06	56	Movano 100bhp	2.5 CDTi LWB		Silver	19,700	9,995	8,995
08	58	Astra Sri Sports hatch	1.6	3	Silver lightening	6,650	10,995	07	57	Movano Long wheel base	2.50CDTi		White	10,300	12,995	10,995
08	58	Astra Exclusiv T/T	1.8	2	Panacotta	12,690	14,995	08	08	Movano MWB, Plylined	2.5CDTi		White	11,050	11,995	10,495
08	58	Astra Breeze Sports hatch	1.4	3	Black sapphire	3,100	10,795	08	08	Movano LWB, Bulkhead	2.5CDTi		White	6,460	13,995	11,995
AGILA								08	58	Movano MWB H/R	2.5CDTi		White	14,050	11,995	10,995
2008	58	Agila Club Auto	1.2	5	Moroccan blue	2,800	8,995	05	55*	Vivaro Long wheel base	1.9CDTi		Red	57,500	11,995	7,995
MERIVA								06	0*	Vivaro Short wheel base	1.9D		White	51,000	8,995	6,245
08	58	Meriva CDTi Breeze Plus	1.3	5	Black sapphire	10,930	11,495	07	57	Vivaro Short wheel base	2.0 CDTi		White	12,100	6,495	7,995
08	58	Meriva Life	1.4	5	Air blue	3,720	8,995	08	08	Vivaro Plylined, LWB, 115bhp	2.0 CDTi		White	5,050	9,495	9,295
VECTRA								08	08	Vivaro Plylined, SWB	2.0CDTi		White	16,050	9,795	8,495
02	52*	Vectra Sxi	1.8	5	Star silver	66,000	2,995	08	08	Vivaro Tech shift, Dble cab	2.5CDTi		Star silver	3,190	15,995	13,995
06	06	Vectra Design Est	1.8	5	Star silver	38,000	7,495	08	08	Vivaro Plylined, SWB	2.0CDTi		White	16,650	9,795	8,495
ZAFIRA								08	08	Vivaro Plylined, SWB	2.0CDTi		White	3,770	9,995	8,795
05	05	Zafira Life	1.8	5	Moonland	40,350	5,495	08	58	Vivaro Double cab, SWB	2.0CDTi		Star silver	5,925	13,995	12,995
06	06	Zafira Club Auto	2.2	5	Star silver	37,280	7,495	08	58	Corsavan CD Player	1.3 CDTi		White	Delivery	6,995	6,745
08	58	Zafira Breeze CDTi Plus	1.9D	5	Metro blue	12,600	13,995	08	08	Vivaro SWB, 90BHP	2.0CDTi		White	Delivery	10,295	9,995
DUE SOON								08	58	Vivaro Sportive	2.0CDTi		Silver	Delivery	13,995	13,495
07	57	Astra VXR	2.0	3	Power red	16,500	13,995	08	58	Vivaro SWB, Air con	2.0CDTi		Ink Blue	Delivery	11,995	10,995
08	57	Astra Sxi Sports hatch	1.6	3	Black sapphire	8,000	9,995	* All Commercial Vehicles + VAT								
08	08	Astra Sxi Sports hatch (Ex pack)	1.6	3	Ultra blue	9,000	10,995									

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USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

RECESSION BUSTING/COUPÉS

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STILL want fun at a recession-busting price? How about our pick of affordable coupés? They all cut a dash for a lot less cash, but each offers a different approach ranging from the no-nonsense Coupé from Korea's Hyundai, through Citroën's Gallic take on the three-door 'coupé' cum family hatchback format to a classic yet still attainable thoroughbred from Italy's Alfa Romeo. None should break the bank on running costs either, especially as two are available with diesel power, and yet all deliver the rewarding drive expected of a coupé.

ALFA GT



THERE is the sense that Alfa Romeo's dark days of rusting and reliability problems are gone, yet doubts remain in the minds of some used car buyers – good news for anyone prepared to take a calculated risk on the sporty yet practical GT. Slinky styling disguises what is actually a spacious 2+2 with a decent hatchback, plus a range of engines from sensible to mad, including some tweaked versions of smooth and refined diesels courtesy of Alfa's Fiat parent.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

CITROËN C4



CITROËN really needed to pull off something special when it launched its current family hatch. So the C4 is a far better car than the dull Xsara it replaced and the three-door 'coupé' has one of the most individual looks on the road. Rakish and racy lines are abruptly curtailed by a chopped and glassy rear end. Balancing such curvaceous yet brutal styling, the C4 offers affordable sportiness, handling and riding well without the irritating quirkiness of old-style Citroëns.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

HYUNDAI COUPÉ



ONCE Hyundai sorted out the glitches of early generations, the brand's 'budget four-seat coupé' proposition was bound to take off. The latest version is beefier and smarter and confirms what great value the Korean sportster is. The chassis cannot rival key competitors, but delivers lots of fun for a modest outlay. For 0-60mph in 8.2 seconds, there is also the 2.7 V6 version and you are sure to find many Coupés with some of Hyundai's generous five-year warranty still intact.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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Lineage
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Metallic Red, Full Service
History, 1 Owner, Power
Steering, Elec
Windows, ABS,
30,000 Miles,
01234 567890

£9.50
3x1 Box Ad
p/wk

3x1
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General Industrial Temps required, need to be flexible, various shifts and locations, £5.73-£7.00 p/h.

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For information on these and other vacancies please call on **01622 664999**

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For further information please call
Mr Otterson
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Looking after adults with learning disabilities
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As a result of an increase in our workload, a Carpenter is required for our building department. Applicants must be apprenticed trained and have a sound knowledge of their trade.

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MidKent College

Earn while you learn!

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding apprentices in the following areas:

Customer Service

Administration

Plumbing

Carpentry/Joinery

Hairdressing

Painting and Decorating

Training allowance: £6,171

Successful candidates will work towards the apprentice framework including a relevant NVQ Level within their chosen subject. We are looking for enthusiastic individuals who will benefit from learning whilst working in a stimulating environment. All apprentice roles are to start 1 September 2009. Interviews are scheduled to take place the week beginning 20 July 2009.

Closing date: 20 July 2009

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the Personnel department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer



MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint an outstanding individual in the following area:

HR Adviser

Salary - £29,559-£36,630

MidKent College has been providing 'top quality' education and training in Kent for almost 100 years. As one of Kent's largest further and higher education Colleges it is important that we also provide 'top quality' support for our managers and staff in this innovative and exciting environment.

We are expanding our HR team to include professional, CIPD qualified HR Advisers, who will strengthen our provision of advice and guidance for managers and staff. We are looking to appoint experienced professionals who can support organisational change processes and have good knowledge of employment law, combined with strong generalist experience and knowledge in key areas of HR delivery. This will include employee relations, performance management, recruitment, workforce planning and organisational development.

Our strong customer service focus requires excellent interpersonal skills and an ability to engage with people at all levels of the organisation, working to drive, develop and implement new HR policies and initiatives that support the delivery of 'top quality' education and training.

For an application pack please contact Caroline Stark on 01634 884511 or e mail caroline.stark@midkent.ac.uk

Closing date: Mid-day July 15th 2009

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the Personnel department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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YOUNG CARERS SUPPORT OFFICER(S) - MATERNITY COVER(S)

Due to forthcoming Maternity Cover(s), Swale Carers Centre is looking to appoint 1 x full time and 1 x part time Young Carers Support Officers, with effect August 2009 - May 2010. There is likely to be the potential for 'Job Share' opportunities following this period, details to be agreed.

Salary: £18,250 pro-rata

Hours: Full-time 37 hours per week / Part-time 10 hours per week - to include evening and occasional weekend working to suit the needs of the service

Entitlements: Essential Car Users Allowance, Pension Contribution, 25 days Annual Leave (pro-rata)

For further information and an information pack, please contact Sandie Hornby our Chief Operations Officer on 01795 583440 or sandie.hornby@swalecarers.org.uk

Completed application forms to be received not later than 10am 10th July, interviews will be held 17th July at Swale Carers Centre.

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advertise
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MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns
and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Programme Area Leader in Catering and Hospitality Ref: P0544

Salary: £30,204 - £33,935 per annum

We are looking to recruit an exceptional candidate to provide support to the Head of School on all Staffing, Student, Curriculum and Quality issues. The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate a significant level of competence in Teaching and Learning, have experience of the industry and have good negotiating/communication skills. The post holder will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Biology Ref: P0102

Salary: £25,895 - £29,622 pro rata

18.5 hours per week

We are looking to recruit an exceptional candidate to teach on and participate in the development of a range of Biology courses on Access, A levels and BTEC. The successful candidate will hold a relevant degree in Biology and possess or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification. We are looking for an individual with the passion to motivate our learners within their chosen field.

Lecturer in Sport Ref: P0102

Salary: £25,895 - £29,622 per annum

The College is looking for a passionate and enthusiastic professional to join the Sports team to teach, assess and participate in the development of Sports programmes. The successful candidate will hold at least a level three qualification and have some teaching/training experience along side industrial expertise. They must hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Health Care Ref: P0650

Salary: £25,895 - £29,622 pro rata

18.5 hours per week

We are looking for a passionate candidate to be involved in the delivery of a range of Health Care programmes. The successful candidate will have proven knowledge and experience within Healthcare environments and hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Performing Arts Ref: P0651

Salary: £25,895 - £29,622 per annum

We are looking for an experienced, creative and dynamic individual to work as a course tutor within the Performing Arts department. The successful candidate will be involved with the development of the department, driving forward new ideas and must be able to demonstrate innovative ways of working and hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Departmental Administrator Ref: P0245

Salary: £12,795 - £16,059 per annum/pro rata

Full time - Medway Campus

Part Time - Maidstone Campus

We are looking to recruit an Administrator/Secretary with excellent administration and organisational skills, who is able to demonstrate knowledge of office procedures and ability to use MS office packages.

Closing date: Wednesday 8 July 2009

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

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Career Opportunities

Canterbury College is an equal opportunities employer



Lecturer Public Services

37 hours per week, salary range £18,387 - £26,363 per annum

08/145

Lecturer Public Services

37 hours per week, salary range £18,387 - £26,363 per annum

09/36

Lecturer Performing Arts -Drama and Musical Theatre

18.5 hours per week, salary range £18,387 - £26,363 pro rata per annum

09/37

Lecturer Chemistry

18.5 hours per week, salary range £18,387 - £26,363 pro rata per annum

06/182

Lecturer Plumbing and Gas Fitting

37 hours per week, salary range £18,387 - £26,363 per annum

09/39

Higher Education Supply Lecturers are required in the following areas:

Electrical/Electronic Engineering

Building Surveying - AutoCAD

Various hours available, salary range £18,387 - £26,363 pro rata per annum

S/HE

Supply Lecturer Nail Technology

Various hours available, salary range £18,387 - £26,363 pro rata per annum

S/NT

Learning Support Independent Living and Leisure Skills

30 hours per week, 38 weeks term time.

Salary starting at £16,914 pro rata per annum. One Year Fixed Term Post

09/34

Trainer Demonstrator Theatre Costume and Props Construction

18.5 hours per week, salary starting at £18,963 pro rata per annum

09/40

Business Development Administrative Assistant

37 hours per week, salary starting from £15,085 per annum

07/49

Supply NVQ Assessors required in the following areas:

Early Years

Play work

Nail Technology

Various hours available, salary range from £18,295 - £26,232 pro rata per annum

S/NVQ/EY
S/NVQ/PW
S/NVQ/NT

Supply Trainer Demonstrator Beauty Therapy

Various hours available, salary starting at £18,963 pro rata per annum

S/TD/BT

Supply Recreation Assistants

Various hours available, salary starting at £15,085 pro rata per annum

S/RA

Night Cleaners

20 hours per week, salary £6.42 per hour

08/22

For an application pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282, quoting the post reference.

Staff benefits include:

■ Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme

■ Proximity to Mainbus / Train Stations

■ Close to City Centre

■ Sports Hall and Gym

■ Generous Holiday Allowance

■ Staff Discount Scheme

Closing date for above posts is Monday 20th July 2009 @ 12 noon

CLICK

www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies

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To commence September 2009:

Learning Support Assistants in AEN & Science

£14,169 - £16,064 pro rata 37 hours per week
8.30 - 4.30 Mon - Thurs 8.30 - 4.00 Fri term time + inset

We are seeking to appoint two Learning Support Assistants; one to join our successful Support & Guidance Team, to work with students who have a wide range of additional educational needs, and one to support students with Science.

Energetic and a champion of children, you will have an interest in science and experience of working with students with additional educational needs. The ability to work well under pressure is essential as are excellent organisational, interpersonal and communication skills.

Further details and application forms are available on our website www.spiresacademy.com Alternatively, contact Marion Wington on 01227 710392 or email on m.wington@spiresacademy.com to request an application pack.

Closing date: noon, Wednesday 8th July 2009.

Interview date: Wednesday 15th July 2009.

Spires Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be subject to appropriate child protection screening including checks with previous employers and the Criminal Records Bureau.



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ref: HK0260

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Closing date: Friday 17 July 2009

Interview date: Thursday 30 July 2009

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Closing date: Friday 17 July 2009

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For an application pack and further details visit www.midkent.ac.uk or e mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk alternatively you may contact Human Resources on 01634 884402.

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Contact Mrs Smith, Office Manager,
tel 01634 338700 or email
office@riverside.medway.sch.uk for an application form and job specification.

CVs will not be accepted.

Applications Close: 10 July 2009
Interviews on: 17 July 2009



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CRICKET

BY GLENN PEARSON

Kent Premier Division

Hartley Country Club 1st XI v Gore Court 1st XI

KENT batsman James Hockley smashed a sensational unbeaten 283 for Hartley as his side thrashed Gore Court by a massive 340 runs.

The 30-year-old right hander registered the highest score in the Kent League as a sorry Gore Court, who only fielded ten players, were comprehensively thrashed.

Hockley shared a 261-run opening partnership with fellow opener Justin Raymond-Guillen, who himself smashed 104. He was the only wicket to go down with Phil Edwards taking a catch off Daniel Forster. The punishment didn't subside there for the Gore Court attack as Essex batsman Matt Walker came in and carried on the punishment, registering an unbeaten 104 in a partnership of 279 with Hockley.

The Premier Division champions went on to score a huge 540 from 55 overs as every Court bowler suffered. Edwards went for 115 off 15 overs, while Forster conceded 130 from 11, going at more than 11 runs an over.

All hopes of a win were out the door before the Gore Court batters went out to the middle and it was just a case of surviving to try and earn a draw. The innings didn't start well when Christian Marsh was out for five but Forster hit 88 to keep Court in the game.

However, when he departed for 88 and the visitors slumped to 105 for 6, the writing was on the wall. Kent Academy youngster Chris Piesley hit a determined 88 to keep Hartley at bay for a short time, but the champions went on to bowl Gore Court out for a paltry 200 inside just 29 overs to record a huge win. Court remain second bottom in the Premier Division.

Hockley puts Court's attack to the sword



SENSATIONAL: James Hockley scored the highest individual amount of runs in a game as Hartley thrashed Gore Court

SCOREBOARD

Hartley Country Club

	Runs
James Hockley not out	283
Justin Raymond-Guillen ct Edwards b Forster	104
Matthew Walker not out	104
Nicholas Lee did not bat	
James Thompson did not bat	
Matthew Coles did not bat	
Patrick Underwood did not bat	
David Thompson did not bat	
Scott McKechnie did not bat	
Andrew Tutt did not bat	
Darrell Carter did not bat	
Extras (19b 12lb 11w 7nb)	49
Total (1 wickets, 55 overs)	540

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Philip Edwards	15	1	113	0
Alamgir Sheriyyar	11	0	74	0
Karl Pearson	9	0	98	0
Chris Piesley	2	0	24	0
Adam Collins	6	0	55	0
Daniel Forster	11	0	130	1
Christian Marsh	1	0	15	0

Gore Court

	Runs
Christian Marsh ct J Thompson b Carter	5
Daniel Forster ct Tutt b D Thompson	88
Dominic Campbell ct McKechnie b Tutt	2
Alamgir Sheriyyar ct Carter b D Thompson	3
Philip Edwards lbw b Andrew Tutt	0
Chris Piesley ct Hockley b Coles	88
Steve Salisbury b Tutt	0
Shaun Piesley run out	2
Karl Pearson ct Coles b J Thompson	4
Adam Collins not out	4
Extras (2lb 2w)	4
Total (all out, 28.3 overs)	200

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Matthew Coles	4.3	1	19	1
Darrell Carter	6	1	44	1
Andrew Tutt	6	0	43	3
David Thompson	5	0	28	2
James Thompson	4	0	48	1
James Hockley	3	0	16	0

LOCAL CRICKET ROUND-UP

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION FOUR

Rodmersham 1st XI v Bexleyheath 1st XI

RODMERSHAM fell to a disappointing 127-run defeat to Bexleyheath at the weekend. The visitors ran up 271 for 8 from 50 overs thanks to Ravi Patel's 95 as Rodmersham's bowlers toiled in the sun. Sadeep Rodrigo was the pick with 3 for 67 while Jack Bayford took 2 for 27. The home side then lost wickets at regular intervals when it was their turn to bat and only skipper Darren Nokes made any telling contribution as he hit an unbeaten 39.

Bexleyheath

	Runs
Phil Wiseman lbw b Bayford	8
Pat Heath ct Emmett b Bayford	20
Jake Kendall b Nokes	5
Ravi Patel ct Azhar b Rodrigo	95
Archie Woodgate ct Foster b Emmett	5
Chris Hobbs b Rodrigo	28
Jack Woods st Foster b Azhar	0
Tom Beaumont b Rodrigo	32
Phillip Bone not out	7
David Meeking not out	26
Manraj Dhesi did not bat	
Extras (5b 15lb 15w 10nb)	45
Total (8 wickets, 50 overs)	271

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Sadeep Rodrigo	15	1	67	3
Darren Nokes	15	1	81	1
Jack Bayford	7	2	27	2
Dylan Emmett	3	0	35	1
Nazoomi Azhar	10	1	42	1

Rodmersham

	Runs
Liam Foster b Meeking	6
Dave Cogger lbw b Patel	28
Robert Horne b Meeking	1
Sadeep Rodrigo ct Kendall b Woods	8
Jamie Horne ct Kendall b Bone	19
Dylan Emmett lbw b Bone	0
Matthew Baker ct Woodgate b Patel	1
Darren Nokes not out	39
Nazoomi Azhar b Patel	4
Christopher Colman b Woods	20
Jack Bayford b Woods	4
Extras (2lb 11w 1nb)	14
Total (all out, 41.4 overs)	144

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
David Meeking	11	2	39	2
Jack Woods	11.4	2	30	3
Tom Beaumont	6	0	17	0
Phillip Bone	10	1	40	2
Ravi Patel	3	0	16	3

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION FIVE

Macknade 1st XI v Bapchild 1st XI

LINCOLN Bryden's 96 and Matt Roche's five wickets helped Bapchild overcome near neighbours Macknade by six wickets.

Faversham side Macknade were bowled out for 175 with Phil Rowcroft top scoring with 85 but he ran out of partners as the rest of the batsmen struggled. Roche was the pick of the Bapchild attack with 5 for 33 while Alan Hampton took 3 for 51 and Adam Larking 2 for 40. In reply, Bryden hit 12 fours and three sixes on his way to 96 and Larking hit an unbeaten 25 to see Bapchild home with almost 15 overs to spare.

Macknade

	Runs
Phil Rowcroft ct Larking b Hampton	85
Kaylem Short st Harold b Roche	23
Lee Rigden c & b Roche	20
Scott Davenport ct Harold b Roche	2
Andrew Machin c & b Roche	3
Chris Smith b Roche	2
Vince Taylor b Larking	13
Steve Taylor c & b Larking	21
Jamie Rigden st Harold b Hampton	0
James Jarrett b Hampton	2
Darryl Cook did not bat	
Extras (1lb 2w)	3
Total (all out, 50 overs)	175

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Matt Lewis	3	0	16	0
Joshua Hunt	5	1	16	0
Alex Ward	3	0	17	0
Adam Larking	10	2	40	2
Matthew Roche	15	2	33	5
Alan Hampton	14	2	51	3

Bapchild

	Runs
Ricky Dale ct Taylor b Short	22
Lincoln Bryden lbw b Rowcroft	96
Ben Fulton lbw b Rigden	4
Alan Hampton b Rowcroft	20
Adam Larking not out	25
Alistair Harold not out	4
Matt Lewis did not bat	
Alex Ward did not bat	
Matthew Roche did not bat	
Joshua Hunt did not bat	
Lewis King did not bat	
Extras (4b 3nb)	7
Total (4 wickets, 35.3 overs)	178

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Kaylem Short	7	0	44	1
James Jarrett	7	1	42	0
Jamie Rigden	7	2	21	1
Darryl Cook	9	0	41	0
Phil Rowcroft	4.3	0	18	2
Andrew Machin	1	0	8	0

KENT FEEDER LEAGUE EAST 1A

Bobbing Court & Lower Halstow 1st XI v Westgate-on-Sea 1st XI

WESTGATE beat Bobbing Court & Lower Halstow by 27 runs in a tight game at Rook Lane.

The Thanet side were bowled out for 199 with Keith Sandwell hitting 52 and Chris Flint 44, while the pick of the bowlers was easily Paul Dennington who claimed 5 for 31. Richard Gower struck 51 at the top of the innings for the visitors but the majority of the his partners failed to stay with him in the run chase. Daniel Ball scored 42 but the Swale side were eventually all out in the final over with Flint taking 4 for 18.

Westgate-on-Sea

	Runs
Neil Watford ct Ryan b Bacon	27
Steve Wood ct Ball b Bacon	15
Keith Sandwell ct Taylor b Gower	52
Nick Sandwell ct Ball b Bacon	2
Chris Flint ct Gary Ryan b Dennington	44
Nick Baxter b Paul Bacon	26
Richie Holden ct Jamie Ward b Paul Dennington	2
Stephen Winch b Dennington	9
Brian Andrews ct Ryan b Dennington	2
Jason Mickle b Dennington	6
Ross Heathcote not out	0
Extras (3lb 9w 2nb)	14
Total (all out, 45 overs)	199

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Paul Bacon	10.1	0	50	4
Jamie Ward	5	0	19	0
Simon Bennett	5	1	26	0
Richard Gower	12	2	47	1
Ian Linsdell	5	1	23	0
Paul Dennington	7	0	31	5

Bobbing Court and Lower Halstow

	Runs
Richard Gower b Holden	51
Richard O'Kane b Andrews	1
Phil Giles b Chris Flint	0
Daniel Ball ct K Sandwell b Holden	42
Gary Ryan ct Wood b Holden	8
Paul Dennington not out	36
Simon Bennett b Winch	3
Jamie Ward st K Sandwell b Flint	12
Paul Bacon b JMickle	1
Benjamin Taylor lbw b Flint	1
Ian Linsdell st K Sandwell b Flint	0
Extras (3lb 5w 9nb)	17
Total (all out, 45 overs)	172

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Chris Flint	8	1	18	4
Brian Andrews	6	1	34	1
Jason Mickle	6	0	15	1
Ross Heathcote	3	0	16	0
Richie Holden	8	1	41	3
Stephen Winch	10	2	31	1
Steve Wood	3	0	14	0

KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION 2ND XI

Gore Court 2nd XI v Dartford 2nd XI

A KNOCK of 76 from Richard Cooper and 53 for Paul Geary helped Gore Court 2s on their way to a narrow two-wicket win against Dartford.

The visitors were bowled out for 150 with Nigel Sharp and Dave Crompton each bagging three wickets, while Rob Slater took 2 for 19.

Court lost Matt Tombs early but Cooper and Geary shared in a 110-run partnership for the fifth wicket which helped the Sittingbourne side set a competitive total of 233.

Dartford

	Runs
Jeremy Dasarath ct Pettett b Crompton	4
Joe Murphy b Crompton	13
Ross Hallam ct Slater b Crompton	19
Sean Parker run out	21
Pat Williams b Sharp	12
Glenn Billenness not out	43
Pavan Bali ct Crompton b Sharp	4
Kevin Webb ct Jackson b Pettett	6
Lee Gray ct Nigel Sharp b Slater	6
Surge Singh ct Clunn b Slater	5
Richard Hirschfield lbw b Sharp	8
Extras (4b 3lb 2w)	9
Total (all out, 48.3 overs)	150

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Dave Crompton	15	4	27	3
Richard Jackson	9	3	31	0
Nigel Sharp	10.3	1	35	3
Simon Pettett	6	0	24	1
Rob Slater	6	1	19	2
Richard Cooper	2	0	7	0

Gore Court

	Runs
Matt Tombs lbw b Gray	4
Richard Cooper c & b Williams	76
Paul Clunn b Pat Williams	22
Paul Carlton ct Bali b Singh	6
Paul Geary b Singh	53
Michael Jones st Murphy b Webb	51
Rob Slater run out	4
Richard Jackson b Williams	4
Simon Pettett not out	6
Nigel Sharp not out	8
Dave Crompton did not bat	
Extras (1b 3lb 12w 1nb)	17
Total (8 wickets, 50 overs)	232

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Richard Hirschfield	8	1	29	0
Lee Gray	5	0	16	1
Pat Williams	15	0	75	3
Surge Singh	15	3	61	2
Pavan Bali	5	0	30	0
Kevin Webb	2	0	17	1

Norton aim to cement victory over Brickies

Picture: GOR KUPCO



HOPEFUL: Ben Taylor fancies Norton's chances against Sittingbourne

NORTON Sports take on Sittingbourne in the first pre-season game of the new campaign, with boss Ben Taylor chipper about his side's chances.

The villagers finished 11th in the first season in the Kent League and Taylor is hoping they will be able to go one better next year.

Norton play host to the Brickies at their future home of Woodstock Park on Saturday and gives Taylor a chance to play against his former club.

He said: "We've had four sessions so far and will step that up this week ahead of the Sittingbourne game. We are all really up for it and have been working hard in training."

With all of his squad staying after a successful first season in the league, the addition of Adam Todd from Herne Bay and Margate reserve goalkeeper Mark Beresford will provide competition for places. Taylor believes fitness will be the key to his side competing at

FOOTBALL

the sharp end again and hopes he can take the club above 11th spot this season.

"If we can finish 10th I would be happy, we want to keep going forward as a club," he said. "We are working at getting as fit as possible as your conditioning can get you through in a lot of games at this level."

Saturday's game is the first chance the club will get to play at Woodstock Park, a ground they are hoping to move to next season. The game kicks off at 1pm.

Norton then take on Whitstable Town on July 18, followed by Chatham Town on July 25, with both games kicking off at 3pm. Admission to will be £3 for adults, £2 for concessions and under-16s with an adult will get in free.

FOOTBALL



ANGRY: Justin Luchford says he received a text message telling him James Gregory was joining Ramsgate

Town boss fumes after Gregory's switch to Rams

FAVERSHAM Town boss Justin Luchford has been left "fuming" after summer recruit James Gregory went back on his word to sign for the club, opting to join Ramsgate instead.

Gregory, a left-sided player, joined Town on the day the club signed Buster Smissen, Rob French and Dale Skelton after having been released from Ryman Premier side Margate at the end of last season.

However, Gregory instead made the switch to Ryman Division One South side Ramsgate, leaving Luchford angry about the way the move was handled.

He told Yoursware: "I'm absolutely fuming about it and I am very disappointed with James. I spoke for two weeks with him, negotiating a deal and when he signed for us he gave me his word he would be playing for us.

Training

"That's all I can ask for as we don't have people on contract. He didn't even ring me to tell, he just sent a group text to me and a couple of the players saying he was going to Ramsgate.

"I'm not very happy as that's the first time that a player has gone against his word."

Town have been back in training for a couple of weeks and Luchford is pleased with what he has seen of his squad, including the new signings.

"We have had four sessions now and on Saturday they did the bleep test," he said. "From the results you can see they are above what they were last season and they appear to be fitter that before. Players like Dave Botterill are in great shape, while Buster Smissen has really impressed me."

Luchford will run the rule over several trialists, including a couple of players that featured for Ashford Town reserves last season, ahead of the club's first pre-season game against Kent County League side OPK on Saturday.



FRUSTRATED: Shane Byrne believes his bike does not have the pace to win regularly in the World Superbike Championship and is on the lookout for a new deal

Byrne searches new deal after series upset

SUPERBIKES

■ BY TOM HOWARD

SHANE Byrne is already in talks with teams for next season after being frustrated by his performances with Sterilgarda Ducati.

The reigning British Superbike Champion from Sheppey is the first person to admit his debut season in the World series has not gone to plan.

The 33-year-old has struggled for the best part of the year riding for Sterilgarda Ducati and only the last two rounds at Donington Park and Misano have seen Byrne on the pace.

He picked up four top-six finishes from the four races, including a second place at San Marino.

Despite a run of positive results, Byrne remains frustrated by his 2009 season so far, especially with fellow Brits Leon Haslam and Tom Sykes having a better time on the world stage.

He told Yoursware: "To be honest the recent results do not make up for the poor start to the season. I was promised a lot of things when we agreed the deal with the team and the move to World Superbikes, but it has not come off as I expected.

"In motorsport the machinery is so important, you only have to look at Jenson Button in Formula One and how well he is doing in a good car. It is the same for me. I am being beaten by Sykes and Haslam this season when last year I was beating them. It is frustrating because they are doing well this year and that

should be me."

Although Byrne (10th in the standings) came agonisingly close to a win in Misano, he feels he is no closer to achieving his first race win of the year.

He said: "The conditions favoured me with it being wet in Misano and I was building a big lead. However, with the track drying out we had to change bikes and I think the pit decision cost me the race. It was a difficult call to make, but I think if I had two more laps under my belt I would have won. I remember thinking to myself 'if I win this race it would buy an awful lot of nappies for my young son'."

"I think the only way we will win is if conditions are in my favour and for me not to make any mistakes. It is not for the want of trying because I am giving it everything."

Byrne will be back in action on July 26 in the Czech Republic.

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